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A VINDICATION

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A
VINDICATION
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE,

FROM
THE REFLECTIONS

OF
SIR JAMES EDWARD SMITH,
PRESIDENT OF THE LINNÆAN SOCIETY,

CONTAINED IN A PAMPHLET,

ENTITLED,

“ Considerations respecting Cambridge,” &c.

BY THE
REV. JAMES HENRY MONK, B.D.

FELLOW AND TUTOR OF TRINITY COLLEGE,
AND REGIUS PROFESSOR OF GREEK
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

Μακρὰν μὲν ἐξέτεινας· ἀλλ' ἐναισίμῳ
Αἰνεῖν, παρ' ἄλλων χρὴ τόδ' ἔρχεσθαι γέρας.

ÆSCHYLUS.

LONDON:
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE-STREET;
SOLD ALSO BY
DEIGHTON AND SONS, NICHOLSON, AND BARRETT,
CAMBRIDGE.

1818.

VINDICATION
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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SIR JAMES EDWARD SMITH

PRESIDENT OF THE LANKAN SOCIETY

CONTAINED IN A PAMPHLET

ENTITLED

"Considerations respecting Cambridge," &c.



REV. JAMES HENRY MONK, B.D.

FELLOW AND CHURCHMAN OF TRINITY COLLEGE

AND RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

WITH A PREFACE BY THE REV. JAMES HENRY MONK, B.D.

AND A POSTSCRIPT BY THE REV. JAMES HENRY MONK, B.D.

REVISED

LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

SOLD ALSO BY

DEIGHTON AND SONS, NICHOLSON, AND BARRATT,

Printed by W. CLOWES, Northumberland-court, Strand.

1818



A

VINDICATION

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

THE following pages are intended as a Reply to a Pamphlet lately published under the title of *Considerations respecting Cambridge, more particularly relating to its Botanical Professorship.* By Sir JAMES EDWARD SMITH, M.D. F.R.S. &c. President of the Linnæan Society. As this publication contains some unjust reflections upon the University of which I am a member, and abounds with charges and insinuations against individuals, among whom I find myself included, no apology can be requisite on my part for meeting it with a public answer. I shall proceed accordingly to examine Sir James Smith's *Considerations*, regretting only, that the necessary avocations of a college examination have prevented my bestowing any attention upon the contents of his pamphlet, until some days after its appearance.

A

The Preface itself contains a striking misrepresentation of the nature and purport of the publication:—

“ The events to which the following pages allude, though apparently of a personal, are not of a private, nature. Had they concerned an individual only, they would never have appeared before the public ; but they involve the interests of science, of education, and of a great University.

“ The turn these events have recently taken, renders a particular detail necessary, for the justification of the writer ; and still more for that of a large and highly important public body, too lightly implicated, by the ignorant or inconsiderate, in the conduct of a few of its ill-advised members.”

I entirely agree with Sir James Smith, in thinking, that the matter of his pamphlet ‘ involves the interests of science, of education, and of a great University ;’ inasmuch as he endeavours to hold up to odium or contempt the Tutors of the different Colleges in that University, the persons to whom the education of a large portion of the liberal youth in this country is intrusted. But, as no charge whatever had been made against himself, it is impossible to allow that he was called upon to write in his own justification : and it is perfectly extravagant to allege, that this work was necessary for the justification of the University, which labours under no accusation, except such as may be found in Sir James’s own

pages. Blind indeed must his readers be, if they fail to perceive, that he is not writing in self-defence—that he is not a knight-errant in the cause of a public body, with whom he has no connexion, and who neither solicited, nor wanted such a defender—but, that his object is simply and solely to recommend himself to that body as the fittest, or rather, the only fit person to supply the Botanical Chair, on the demise of the present Professor. To effect this, he dwells on his own unrivalled merits; he hints, in strong terms, the incompetency of other gentlemen who are thought likely to become candidates in case of the vacancy; he contends, that his not belonging to the University, and his being a dissenter from the established Church, neither disqualify, nor render him a less proper object of choice; and, finally, he throws all manner of obloquy upon those, who presume to differ from him on any of these points.

It is to his conduct in the last particular, that Sir J. Smith must attribute the present Reply. Had he contented himself with extolling his own merits, and depreciating those of his rivals, though I might have doubted whether this mode of proceeding were consistent either with his own interests, or with the principles of good taste, yet I should have left the determination of this point to the unbiassed judgment of the public.

Had he only argued against the supposed disqualification of a person not agreeing with our Church, and consequently incapable of taking a degree, I should have been content to leave the question to the decision of the University. But he has come forward as the accuser of persons, whose stations and characters give them some claim to the respect of the world; and he is mistaken, if he believes them unable or afraid to vindicate the opinions which they have professed, and the motives by which they are actuated.

The first of Sir James Smith's four chapters gives a history of his canvass for the Botanical Professorship, from its commencement, to the present year. The second chapter contains an account of the progressive encouragement that Botany has experienced in other places, together with a warm eulogy of the science, which he thinks peculiarly desirable and appropriate in an University, where the studies are principally classical and mathematical. In the third chapter is an inaccurate history of the Botanical Professorship, given with the view of strengthening his pretensions by the argument of precedent. The fourth chapter resumes the narrative, and gives the result of his operations in the present year.

The details of a canvass, however interesting to

the candidate himself, can seldom be important to the public at large. In the present work, they occupy a considerable space, without materially affecting any of the subjects in dispute.

The whole story may be shortly told. Many years ago it was suggested to Sir J. Smith, that the Botanical Professorship at Cambridge was an object to which he might aspire with great probability of success, whenever, in the course of human events, a vacancy might happen. The principal obstacle appeared to be, his objection to subscribe to our articles of faith, and his consequent inability to take a degree. At length, however, in the year 1813, he was induced to consent, at the persevering instance of his friends, to the institution of a full and precise inquiry; the result of which informed him of as much as he might have discovered from a Cambridge Calendar, that the Professorship had been already held without a degree; whence it was concluded, that his inability to subscribe was not an insuperable bar to his object. Encouraged by this news, he commenced operations with an attempt to gain a footing at Cambridge. He accordingly applied, by letter, to Professor Martyn, for his authority to read a course of botanical lectures in the University. The Professor, in his answer, informed him, that he held, independent of the professorship, the situation of Dr. Walker's

Reader; which he proposed to resign in Sir James's favour, provided he could obtain the concurrence of a majority of the five Trustees. To these Trustees, who are the Vice-Chancellor, the Masters of Trinity and St. John's Colleges, the Provost of King's, and the Regius Professor of Physic, his next application was directed, and met with a polite refusal; although the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Davie, late Master of Sidney, was, he tells us, favourable to his design. During the four succeeding years he seems, twice at least, to have renewed his applications, but with no better success. Sir James, however, was not a man to be dismayed by difficulties, and having once set the object before him, determined never to lose sight of it. He had, in the mean time, been carrying on an active canvass for the votes of the members of the Senate: his words are—

“ While the circumstances and motives above explained, had rather unexpectedly checked my aspiring hopes at Cambridge, I had taken a free and lofty range in the world at large, with far different and most exhilarating success.” *Considerations*, p. 20.

In the course of this *free and lofty range* he found, it seems, great support among persons of eminent rank, particularly the ‘peers spiritual and temporal.’ Notwithstanding all this encouragement from abroad, it still appeared advisable to make good his footing on the field of action, pre-

viously to the expected contest; and at length the favourable dispositions of the present Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Webb, the Master of Clare Hall, seemed to afford the long wished-for opportunity. It was now resolved, however, to alter the plan of operations; and instead of renewing the application for the appointment of Dr. Walker's Reader, upon which other opinions besides Dr. Webb's *must* have been taken, it was deemed expedient that the Professor should nominate Sir James as his deputy. Professor Martyn, accordingly, wrote a letter, dated March 14, 1818, formally requesting him to give a course of botanical lectures in the present Easter Term. With this authority, and under the sanction of the Vice-Chancellor, an advertisement was published during the Easter vacation, announcing that Sir James Edward Smith's Lectures would commence on the 6th of April. But the whole scheme was disconcerted, by a representation made to the Vice-Chancellor, just before the time, by eighteen Tutors, belonging to fourteen of the colleges, expressing their decided disapprobation of any public lecturer, who was neither a member of the University, nor of the Church of England. The consequences were, the abandonment of the lectures, and an appeal to the world in the pamphlet now under consideration.

In examining the arguments advanced in these

pages, one difficulty occurs: the different topics are so intermixed and confused, that if the work were to be taken paragraph by paragraph, it would be necessary to recur incessantly to the same answer. Of this I have, of course, no right to complain, since it is the undoubted privilege of a writer, to arrange his materials in the way that seems most likely to produce the desired effect on the mind of the reader. My reply will embrace the following topics, which are in different places discussed by Sir James:—

1. The high importance of botanical studies, as a branch of education at Cambridge.
2. His own peculiar qualifications as a Lecturer.
3. The want of pretensions in all other candidates.
4. His not being a Member of the University.
5. His being a Dissenter from the Church.
6. The conduct and motives of all persons who oppose his views.

The first topic enables Sir J. S. to eulogize his favourite science, and to give his notions relative to a new and untried system of botanical lectures for the University, of a more deep and scientific kind, than would be suitable to a mixed audience, of both sexes, in the metropolis; which

system he considers intimately connected with the train of mathematical studies. Upon this subject I am not competent to give any opinion; but I entirely agree with him in thinking, that the illustration of the Scriptures, and of the classical authors, may sometimes be assisted by the science of botany. Of this he gives two original specimens, one in each department: he is persuaded of a fact which 'no commentator has hitherto conjectured,' that Virgil's *acanthus* is our common holly; and that the term *lilies of the field*, in St. Matthew's Gospel, applies to the *amaryllis lutea*. These pieces of information are really interesting; and I wish that the pamphlet contained more of the same description.

Although I cannot agree with the sentiments of Sir James, respecting the primary importance of this study, as a branch of education, yet I am far from condemning the zeal and earnestness of his own predilections. It is the common propensity of us all, to exalt the relative consequence of our own peculiar and favourite pursuits. This is the natural result of a long and steady devotion to one train of reasoning, and of the gratification which the mind actually experiences from its researches; and is so far from being censurable, that it may fairly be doubted, whether, if such strong partialities in favour of particular branches of knowledge did not exist, the bounds of litera-

ture or science would ever be materially advanced. It is impossible, however, to assent to the propriety of botany becoming a primary pursuit among the youth of our University. The regular and established objects of study are the Classics, the Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, a competent portion of Metaphysics, and such an elementary knowledge of Divinity, as may form a ground-work of the theological pursuits of those who are designed for holy orders, and furnish every student with an introduction to the evidences of our religion, as well as the history, the allusions, the idioms, and phraseology of the Scriptures.

It has been decided by long experience, that these studies supply the best and surest mode of forming the taste and cultivating the mind, during the most important season of life, of strengthening the reasoning and other faculties, particularly that of memory, of generating correct and liberal habits of thinking, and of storing the mind with valuable knowledge. They are, accordingly, the primary subjects of academical instruction, and to proficiency in them, the rewards and honours of the place, in all their gradations, are attached. I consider the studies of Chemistry, Anatomy, Mineralogy, and Botany, as useful, though subordinate, objects of attention: and upon those sciences, with the exception of Botany, as well as upon the Arts and

Manufactures of the country, and upon Modern History, regular courses of lectures are given, with great ability, by the respective Professors. These lectures are highly beneficial, both in diffusing among the votaries of the severer studies a gentlemanly portion of general information, and in supplying direction and encouragement to others, who are precluded by want of taste and ability, or by other circumstances, from becoming proficient in the regular pursuits, and who might, without such assistance, waste much valuable time in idleness. In this point of view I consider lectures upon botany very desirable, and certainly intend to withhold my individual support from any candidate for the Botanical Chair, of whose ability and disposition to lecture I shall not be thoroughly convinced.

Sir James Smith does not forget to mention the high distinctions paid to his favourite science in other places :

“ Botany,” he says, “ has always made a prominent part of the general system of Academical education, in most Universities, ever since the revival of learning. In many it is one of the studies, in which young men are examined for their degrees. In Sweden, always so fertile in distinguished philosophers, Natural Science takes place of every other, *being the pursuit which leads to preferment in church and state, like the Mathematics at Cambridge*.*” p. 26.

* Here we have a really important piece of news. I entertain a high respect for the mathematics ; and besides regard them with

To this and all such remarks I shall merely reply, that the results of our general system of education have been so successful, that we should not be justified in changing it for that of any other University on the face of the earth. It is by progressive steps that it has been brought to its present state. Even within the last few years, additional efficacy has been given to our system of studies, by an improved method of examination: and I am by no means disposed to assert, that it is not susceptible of still further improvement: but this we may say with confidence, that it is, in all its leading and important features, so well adapted to the purposes which it is intended to answer, that we should not be justified in precipitately adopting any innovations, at the suggestion of persons unconnected with our University, who neither are nor can be fully acquainted with its merits or defects.

But the topic to which Sir James recurs with most satisfaction, and which pervades his sixty pages, is that of his own unrivalled acquire-

partiality, as having formerly devoted some time to them myself: but I never before suspected that Mitres and Cabinet Offices were disposed of according to the order of the Tripos. This information however, coming from a person who represents himself as so much connected with the great world, will, I trust, produce its effect upon the aspiring students.

ments, and transcendent reputation as a botanist. In the truth of these representations, as far as they regard the question of science, I am disposed to declare my full and unqualified belief. Self-praise, however, is so seldom observed in persons whose merits are unequivocal, that if any thing could throw suspicion upon Sir James's well-earned fame, it would be his present pamphlet. But his scientific publications have been too long before the world, and his merits have been too generally acknowledged, to leave either the power or disposition to doubt the justice of public opinion in this instance.

Nec tamen, hoc tribuens, dederim quoque cetera.— We generally find associated with distinguished merit, not only a certain reluctance to claim superiority, but an indulgent way of estimating the pretensions of others who are embarked in the same career, particularly if they happen to be rivals or competitors. To this observation, which is so general as to have given occasion to a proverb, the conduct of Sir James Smith offers a painful contrast. Of the botanical acquirements of such members of the University as he deems his competitors, he speaks in terms of contempt, which, I am well assured, are unmerited; and, he insinuates some very broad charges, affecting their character, which, till he produces some evidence of their truth, I am bound to consider

unfounded. All this is so decidedly opposite to the delicacy, scrupulously observed in our different University Elections, that it is likely to produce an effect, the very reverse of that which he intended. It is a matter of sufficient notoriety, that Cambridge, at present, possesses among its own members, several very eminent Naturalists, some of whom have signified an intention of aspiring to this Professorship whenever it may become vacant, though I have not heard that any one has yet 'taken his free and lofty range in the world at large;' and others would, I have no doubt, declare themselves candidates in case of an actual vacancy. Their botanical acquirements may be much inferior to Sir James's, (though even this I have heard doubted), but still they are such as would make them efficient Professors, and would, if exerted in their proper sphere, reflect credit upon the University. Should Sir James Smith plead ignorance of this fact, it will hardly be admitted, that ignorance can ever justify such sentences as the following:

"There *might* be men, long trained in the University, whose *personal characters* and scientific abilities rendered them competent to fill the station in question with honour, *though I was not acquainted with any.*" p. 9.

"The Professor of Botany, in concurrence with this design (viz. that of Dr. Walker's foundation), has always dedicated a

portion of his lectures to the demonstration of such plants, (i. e. useful, medical, or noxious plants) and a commentary on their properties. But where now are the materials, and *where the learning that is to turn them to account?*" p. 30.

In the following extracts, Sir James seems to take for granted, that some, or all of his opponents intend respectively, in the event of their success, to enjoy the emoluments, without performing the duties of the Professorship, and to render it, as he expresses himself, 'a scandalous sinecure'—an assumption that appears both unfair and uncharitable, and is totally unsupported by proof.

"The reader cannot but have suspected, that the ill-grounded pretences, put forth from time to time, to the hindrance of all Botanical instruction at Cambridge, must have concealed some latent motive. I had long since traced out this to its source. The various candidates for the Professorship possessed many friends in the University, who very naturally thought, that any person who might have an opportunity to lecture with credit, would gain an advantage over the other competitors. This reason, if avowed, would have been honourable and manly. And it would naturally have been avowed, had it not been damped by a consciousness that such an advantage would, in the present case, not be an undue one. They knew how slight, in some quarters, was the intention, and indeed the ability, of lecturing; what motives of non-residence, and other considerations, were intermixed with the ostensible object; and how little the only praiseworthy and legitimate intention, of being a competent and active Professor, devoted to his science, was predominant." p. 55.

“ A strange doctrine has been broached of late, of which, though only covertly insinuated, I have now and then met with traces,—that public lectures in the University are not at all desirable. A late writer, it seems, in a description or history of Cambridge, has suggested, that “ the writings of Professor Martyn and Sir James Smith, render Botanical Lectures at Cambridge unnecessary, especially as the garden is in such good order.” I know this book merely from the Monthly Review, and I quote from memory. I recollect that the reviewer, aware of the drift of this insidious passage, gave the words in italics. The writer appears to have been the friend of some candidate, who wished to avoid lecturing; but it required uncommon assurance to make use of the superior merits of a rival, and of his supporter, as an argument for rendering the appointment a scandalous sinecure.” p. 24.

I have discovered the passage, which calls down all this unmerciful language, in a book printed three years ago, by the Rev. LATHAM WAINWRIGHT, of Emmanuel College, called, *The Literary and Scientific Pursuits which are encouraged and enforced in the University of Cambridge, briefly described and vindicated*. The original is found in a note in page 58 of that work. “ The present “ respected Professor of Botany has for some “ years discontinued his lectures on that subject; but they who are disposed to follow this “ pursuit, either with a professional view, or as “ an elegant amusement, have within their reach “ the means of accomplishing their object, in a “ manner infinitely superior to any oral instruction whatever. I believe it is acknowledged

“ by the best judges, that the Botanic garden at
 “ Cambridge contains one of the finest collec-
 “ tions of plants in the kingdom, and is only
 “ inferior to the Royal garden at Kew. The
 “ class *cryptogamia* may probably form an ex-
 “ ception to this statement. He who possesses
 “ the advantage of constant access to this exten-
 “ sive collection, together with the works of Pro-
 “ fessor Martyn and Sir James E. Smith, the Pre-
 “ sident of the Linnæan Society, can well dispense
 “ with the assistance of lectures, in acquiring the
 “ elements of this popular branch of science.”

What there is covert or insidious in this pas-
 sage, I confess myself unable to discover. Mr.
 Wainwright, whose whole book is written in a
 gentlemanlike and candid spirit, as well as with
 intelligence and accuracy, intended nothing more,
 as it would appear, in this sentence, than to be-
 stow a just tribute upon the value of our Botanic
 garden, and to suggest the best apology that
 occurred to him, for the absence of lectures. He
 actually steps out of his way to pay a handsome
 compliment to Sir James Smith, and his courtesy
 meets with a return of such a nature, that I leave
 the reader to describe it in whatever terms he
 thinks it deserves.

There are two English Botanists, one belong-
 ing to each University, who are complimented in
 Sir James's pamphlet; but whether by accident or

design, each of these compliments is so invidiously expressed, as to look like an indirect affront upon his expected competitors.

The first instance relates to Oxford, where some persons wished him to become candidate for the Botanical Chair, at the death of the late Professor Sibthorp, in 1794.

The appointment is in the gift of the London College of Physicians, where I believe I should have found no difficulty in meeting with sufficient support; and it was hinted that a degree by *Mandamus* might readily have been procured. But these considerations did not for a moment engage me. There was already an able and deserving man, whose claims were prior to mine, Dr. George Williams, the present Professor, whose learning and whose unbounded liberality, in whatever could promote or facilitate botanical knowledge, have proved him worthy of his appointment. I would not have opposed him, even had not the difficulty of subscription stood in the way of my indispensable degree; which I presume it did, being necessary even on matriculation at Oxford, though not at Cambridge. p. 10.

The other is in page 21, where we are told, that, in contemplation of a vacancy at Cambridge, an ineffectual application had been made to a clergyman of distinguished eminence as a naturalist, and especially as a botanist, *to whom no objection could have been made* *.

* We find, indeed, in page 6, this remark:—"The scientific *Flora* of the county, by Mr. Relhan, (two editions of which had done honour to the University press), had maintained

The next topic, which demands consideration, is Sir James Smith's argument upon the eligibility of perfect strangers to the Botanical, as well as some other Professorships. The truth of this bare position, that the University possesses the power, if it should have the disposition, to make such an appointment, is never likely to be questioned. The Professorships of Botany, Chemistry, Anatomy, and Mineralogy, owe their origin, their continuance, and their appointments, to the votes of the University Senate: and under such circumstances it is a piece of superfluous labour to demonstrate, that the Senate possesses the *right* of bestowing the appointment wherever it pleases. He had better have contented himself with general arguments, for the *propriety* and *expediency* of choosing a stranger in preference to one of its own members, than have adduced precedents which, when examined, are rather calculated to deter the University from repeating the experiment.

The origin of our Botanical Professorship was this:—In the year 1724, a *grace* passed the senate, granting the honorary title of Botanical

“the botanical celebrity, and classical interest, of scenes, first immortalized by the pen of Ray.” I am totally unable to reconcile this with the passages already quoted, except by one of two apparently improbable suppositions; either that Sir James was ignorant of Mr. Relhan's intention to be a candidate in the event of a vacancy, or that he designed the above commendation to be ironical.

Professor to Richard Bradley*, F. R. S., a horticulturist eminently distinguished by his publications, who had undertaken to construct at his own expense a botanical garden, an object greatly desired at Cambridge. The following is a copy of the grace :

“ Cum Ricardus Bradley, Societatis Regalis Londinensis Socius, in re herbaria se peritissimum exhibuerit, atque horto Botanico instruendo et exornando et sumptus et operam impendere sponderit, in summum hujus Academiae commodum decusque,

“ Placeat vobis, ut Professoris Botanici titulum, honoris ergo, apud vos consequatur.”

“ Lect. Nov. 10, 1724. Concess. eodem die pomerid.”

It appears, however, that Mr. Bradley obtained this title by imposing on the credulity of the University: he took no steps, and seems to have had no intention to fulfil his promises: we hear, indeed, of his having given one course of lectures at the Bull Inn in 1723, but it was on the materia medica, not on botany. I find it in different places asserted, that he was a person who disgraced

* I shall perhaps be pardoned for noticing a curious fact, not generally known, that Professor Bradley was the first inventor of an optical instrument, extremely similar to the *caléidoscope*: which proceeds upon the same principle, though it is not so complete as that for which Dr. Brewster has obtained a patent. An account of its theory and application (with plates) is found in a book published by Bradley in 1717, called *New Improvements of Planting and Gardening*.

considerable scientific attainments by a depraved moral character. The senate at his death resolved to appoint a successor by election; and accordingly chose John Martyn, the well-known editor of Virgil, who was a member of the University, though not a graduate*.

Upon this election Sir James is pleased to give us the following commentary:

“Mr. John Martyn, F. R. S., recommended to the University by Sherard and Sloane, had been permitted to read botanical lectures for the course of six years before the death of the first Professor. When that event took place, he was anxious to obtain the Professorship, and his friends imagined he would succeed without opposition, *there being no person in the University, as his son assures me, who knew any thing of botany. Trinity and St. John's colleges each produced a candidate, but their pretensions were slight. There was nothing to be got, but by exerting themselves so as to lecture with ability, and they soon withdrew.*” p. 45.

I am not fond of giving forced meanings to words, or of discovering insinuations, where they are not too glaring to be overlooked. The reader must judge, whether the words which I have given in italicks, were written merely with a design of

* I extract the proceedings from the University Registry:

Jan. 23, 173 $\frac{2}{3}$. “Cum per mortem Ricardi Bradley, nuperi Professoris Botanici, munus istud jam vacans existit, placeat vobis, ut alius ad idem munus exequendum a vobis eligatur.”

“Lect. et Concess. eodem die postmerid.”

Publicat. 7^{mo}. die Feb. 173 $\frac{2}{3}$. “Dominus Procancelarius assignat horam tertiam postmeridianam diei crastini pro electione Professoris Botanici.”

Feb. 8, 173 $\frac{2}{3}$. “Electus est Joannes Martyn *Collegii Emmanuelis* Botanicus Professor hujus Academiæ.”

rescuing from oblivion an anecdote of no great interest, or with a veiled allusion to the present times. If he decides for the latter interpretation, he must also determine, whether such a parallel be applicable to the present state of things in our University, and whether the reflection which it contains be in the least merited.

Mr. John Martyn lectured only for two years: in 1761 he resigned the Professorship, and his son, the present Professor, who was then M. A. and Fellow of Sidney College, was elected. Sir James Smith says, 'that he proposed to resign the Professorship in favour of his son:' obviously intending to sanction by precedent the proposal of resignation, which has been made in his own favour. But he is mistaken as to the fact: the resignation was couched in the most absolute and unconditional terms; which makes this case utterly inapplicable to his purpose. He adds, "No time had been given for opposition, and his pretensions being irrefragable, he was elected without opposition in 1761." What was the object of this sentence it is not easy to divine. Supposing it to be true, that a fair time previous to the election had not been allowed, this could only prove gross misconduct in Dr. Plumtre, the Vice Chancellor of that day: it seems, indeed, to be a maxim with Sir James, to lose no opportunity of stigmatizing the characters of the dead—*Nil nisi malum de mor-*

tuis. However, his information on this point is not more correct than usual. The resignation was dated Nov. 18th ; it was published to the University in full congregation on the 30th of January, and the election took place on the 12th of February following. Supposing, therefore, what is in the highest degree improbable, that the resignation had been kept a secret from the 18th of November to the 30th of January, there was still allowed the space of fourteen days for candidates to come forward, which is as long a time as is usually desired previous to elections in the University, and is generally considered as sufficient for all purposes of the most extensive canvass.

Sir James Smith looks for assistance in the way of precedent to other Professorships, and discovers that Vigani and Rolfe, the first Professors of Chemistry and Anatomy, were strangers. "That of Chemistry," he says, "was first bestowed upon a foreigner, probably a Catholic, John Francis Vigani, of Verona, on its foundation in 1702." Vigani, though a native of Verona, had been long enough resident in this country, to be considered an Englishman ; and I feel very little doubt but that he conformed to our church. In 1683 he had published a very small book, entitled *Medulla Chymicæ*, containing a neat and curious account of furnaces, and other

chemical apparatus, which seem to have been his own inventions; from the preface it appears, that he had at that time been long in England, and was well known both by persons of rank, and of science, in this country. He had resided at Cambridge twenty years before his appointment, during which he had cultivated his chemical pursuits, with credit to himself and benefit to the University, as is stated by the *grace* conferring upon him the title of Professor; and whoever is at all acquainted with the history of our University, or, indeed, of our country, during those twenty years, will agree with me in thinking it very unlikely, that a Papist should have been encouraged, or even permitted, to associate with the Students. Cambridge, indeed, he would have found the most uncomfortable residence in England. Though I have not an opportunity of investigating the matter further at present, yet his appointment is in itself an argument, that he could not have been a Papist.

Sir James proceeds to say (p. 43), “ the first
 “ Professor of Anatomy, George Rolfe, in 1707,
 “ was a stranger to the University, and does not
 “ appear to have ever taken a degree, though
 “ he lectured, or at least held the appointment
 “ twenty-one years.” This instance is singularly
 unfortunate for his purpose, and will rather
 operate as a caution to the University, against

trusting the professions of those, who have not already an intimate and natural connexion with its body. Rolfe was an anatomist of eminence, who, having performed many dissections in the University, was invested by a *grace* with the title of Anatomical Professor.

In what manner he repaid the favour and confidence of the University, will be discovered from the following *grace*, passed at a convocation:—

“Whereas Mr. George Rolfe, who, by favour of this Senate, obtained the Professorship of Anatomy in this University, has been several years absent from his office, and though sent to by Mr. Vice Chancellor’s order, has taken no notice, and continues still in neglect;

“May it please you, that his Professorship be declared vacant, and that another by you be chosen, to succeed him in office and title.”

“Read April 17, 1728. Granted the same day.”

It is next asserted, that “the first Professor of Music, Nicholas Stagins, in 1684, like one of his successors, the famous Dr. Greene, was a “stranger.” Both Stagins and Greene were Doctors of Music in Cambridge, at the time of their respective appointments: however, the inaccuracy of this remark is of no importance, and all that can be said relative to the Musical profession is perfectly irrelevant; since this faculty does not form a part of the University, and has only a

slight connexion with it. Degrees in Music are conferred without any previous residence, and without any exercise or test, except the performance of a piece of music at St. Mary's church: the Professor himself is so far from being acknowledged as a member of the body, that he is never allowed to enter the Senate-house to present to a degree, till a special grace has been obtained for his admission. In p. 50, notice is taken of the teachers of Italian and Hebrew; to whom ought to have been added those of the French and German languages. But their case is so palpably inapplicable to the subject of the pamphlet, that it is difficult to imagine the mention of them to have been seriously made. When it shall be proposed to invest those gentlemen with University offices, then, and not till then, may Sir James adduce their case as a parallel to his own.

Thus we find that Sir J. Smith's precedents of strangers being appointed to Professorships, amount to three; those of Vigani, Rolfe, and Bradley, who were the first that filled their respective offices: but not a single instance has he found, of a perfect stranger having been elected to an office already established, which is obviously the only case that could be made to wear the semblance of an argument in behalf of his own pretensions. The distinction is important. When it was an object

to introduce into the University, a pursuit hitherto uncultivated in the place, it was right and necessary to look beyond its limits for an able instructor in that science. But, when a study has once been established, and successfully pursued by some of its own body, it is more consistent with justice as well as policy, to elect one of them to fill a vacant appointment, than to have recourse, as was done in the first instance, to aliens. It is by the hope of these offices and distinctions, that our members are encouraged to devote their leisure to such pursuits. When a gentleman educated amongst us is proposed as a candidate, not only his abilities, but his personal character, can thoroughly be appreciated by the electors themselves, instead of being taken upon the partial representation of others; and in the choice of such a person, there exists a security, that he will have a community of views and feelings with the University, and a devotion to its interests, which it would be unreasonable to look for in a perfect stranger. It is, besides, natural and proper to be extremely cautious in admitting into the bosom of our Institution, and investing with our offices, persons, however unexceptionable in their private characters, who have been educated in a system of studies and discipline very dissimilar to our own, and whose age and talents may give them influence over our junior mem-

bers. Besides these objections, which appear to me to deserve the fullest consideration, other reasons will suggest themselves to the reader, why the election of a stranger is a measure of questionable policy.

I will not, however, deny that cases may be imagined, where such a step would be advisable; as, for instance, where there is a want of well qualified candidates among ourselves, or where the transcendent attainments of a stranger, unalloyed by any objectionable circumstance, promise to confer honour upon the University. I might have thought Sir James Smith's case came within this description, had there been no eminent botanists in our own body, and had the information which I once received, turned out correct,—that he had altered his opinions of religious dissent, and become a sincere member of our Church. But before I discuss the question here alluded to, it is necessary to mention a most extraordinary opinion entertained by Sir James, that in coming forward as a stranger, quite unconnected with the place, he is contending for a right of the University, which he would sacrifice if he were to enter himself a member of any college. This is mentioned in page 19, and repeated in page 48:—"It cannot be wondered
 "at, that I should therefore persist in standing
 "on the ground which is certainly most honour-

“able to both parties.” To talk of ‘contending for a right of the University,’ which nobody has ever disputed, is surely not very intelligible language; and this must be classed with the assertion of the Preface,—that the present publication was necessary for the justification of the University. Sir James Smith may spare himself all trouble of this kind for the future. The University of Cambridge, if its conduct be censured, or its privileges attacked, possesses both the power and the will to defend itself, and can never wish for the interference of a person unconnected with it, especially that of a dubious friend. There are, however, certain privileges, which people of a sound mind are not much in the habit of exercising; as for instance, the privilege which a man possesses of destroying all the title-deeds of his estates—the privilege of disinheriting his own children, who never offended him, and of leaving his whole property to strangers. Of the same description is the privilege, which it is impossible to deny that our Senate possesses, namely, that of bestowing the office in question upon a stranger, though they might have an accomplished and unexceptionable candidate among themselves. I am equally unable to comprehend what is meant by its being ‘more honourable both to the candidate and to the University,’ or indeed to either party, that he

should not be a member of any of its colleges. How, for instance, would it be more honourable to Cambridge, to number Barrow, and Newton, and Porson among its professors, had they been adopted from another University, instead of being fellows of one of the colleges within itself?

Throughout the '*Considerations upon Cambridge*,' so much attention seems to be paid to foreign authorities, that it may not be amiss to quote one exactly in point:

"In facultate artium habetis aliquot eruditos magistros, et rationem haberi præsentium, qui sunt idonei, utile est multis de causis. *Invitantur enim ceteri, ut Academia libentius maneat. Et novi ac peregrini magis sunt obnoxii invidiæ: hinc oriantur certamina ac factiones.*"

PHIL. MELANCTHON. *Consilium de Constituenda Academia Lipsica.*

This is the deliberate advice of one of the most sensible and candid men that ever lived. It is true, that he recommends the University of Leipzig to invite Joachim Camerarius from another seminary of learning; but he elsewhere expressly stipulates, that lecturers so invited should be members of the same religious communion.

Sir James, however, feels so strongly upon this point, that he afterwards indulges himself with the following sentence:—

“ Where would have been the celebrity and the utility of the foreign Universities of Edinburgh, of Göttingen, of Pavia, and many others, had the choice of their professors been restricted by any rules, but the claims of acknowledged and eminent ability ?”
p. 58.

The allusion contained in these words is much too obvious to have been unintentional ; and I reply, that neither Cambridge nor Oxford (since Oxford is pointedly excluded from the list) will fear a comparison, with respect to celebrity or utility, with Edinburgh, or Göttingen, or Pavia, or any other university in existence.—The question of *utility* must be determined in a great degree by the opinion of the public, which is shown pretty clearly, in the increased numbers of students, who have, of late years, flocked to this place, as well as to our sister University, which is the co-ordinate pillar of the establishment, and whose appointments, with respect to rules and restrictions, stand nearly upon the same footing as our own.

Upon the score of *celebrity*, which can only be derived from the eminent reputation of many individuals, I rather think that there is no Cambridge man who would not court investigation and comparison. To avoid the invidiousness of selection, I shall allude only in general terms to the numerous living personages, distinguished in every species of merit, who owe their education to

our system. But to a few of their predecessors I may venture to make a more particular reference. Greater celebrity in theological pursuits has never been obtained than is enjoyed by Lightfoot, Cudworth, Pearson, Barrow, Sherlock, and Waterland; of whom it is remarkable, as well as gratifying to record, that they were severally Masters of colleges. In Philosophy, the splendour attached to the names of Bacon and Newton is so dazzling, as to eclipse the celebrity, not only of all our other philosophers, but of all whom the world has yet seen. Since, however, the question concerns appointments to Professorships, I shall just remark, that, had the range of choice been ever so much extended, more eminent mathematicians would hardly have been found, at the time of their respective elections, than Cotes, Whiston, Saunderson, Smith, and Waring, our actual Professors subsequent to Newton. Among the naturalists and physiologists of this University, even Sir J. Smith appears to acknowledge the unrivalled celebrity of Harvey and Ray; to whose names he will, perhaps, allow me to subjoin those of Hales and Heberden. The poetical celebrity of Cambridge is recognised wherever English literature is cultivated, and by all who are aware, that she counts among her sons the following bards—Spenser, Jonson, Beaumont, Fletcher, Shirley, Cowley, Milton, Waller, Dryden,

Otway, Prior, Gray, and Mason. Lastly, but certainly not with least satisfaction, I mention our more appropriate celebrity for classical scholarship—in which department, among many other names, those of Stanley, Gataker, Bentley, Dawes, Taylor, Markland, and Porson will stand a comparison with the *élite* of all the Universities in the world.

The above names are adduced with no view of ostentation, but merely because this seems the fairest and the least invidious reply to insinuations respecting the *celebrity* of our University. I proceed now to the impropriety of Sir James Smith's admission to an office in our body, upon the ground of his dissent from the opinions of our Church. Upon this discussion I enter with some degree of reluctance and pain, not arising from the least mistrust of the view in which I consider the question, nor from any fear of such imputations as 'a jealous and exclusive spirit,' or narrow prejudices, or even *stupid bigotry*, which are, I find, liberally bestowed upon our opinions; but from a dislike to say any thing, which may have a tendency to hurt the feelings of persons, who conscientiously differ from us.

Sir James is, I understand, a member of a congregation of Dissenters, who assume the title of *Rational Christians*. What are the points of

belief or unbelief which characterize this sect, or to what extent they carry their disapprobation of our opinions or discipline, I have never been perfectly informed; nor can this be discovered, but by surmise, from the publication before me. It is, however, a point of no importance to the present question, which, as it strikes me, is simply this:—whether a person, whose opinions upon theological subjects differ avowedly from those of the Church of England, and so as to disable him from that subscription which is requisite for admission to degrees, ought to be invested with an office of some rank and consideration, or with any office at all, in either of its Universities? Before I state my reasons for answering this question with a decided negative, it is right to mention, what Sir James Smith considers a qualifying circumstance in his own case,—that he has received the communion in the church. His words are these: “I had always been in the
 “habit of attending frequently the public worship
 “of the church, and of receiving the sacrament
 “there many years since; not on any particular
 “occasion, nor with any particular object, except
 “the principle of Christian communion.” I should be sorry to shew any captiousness in noticing peculiar modes of expression, which may be merely the results of a loose and hasty mode of writing: but no reader can fail to remark an ambiguity in

the above quotation, which leaves the time, the continuance, and the ground of this *habit* somewhat doubtful. Sir James seems, indeed, not unwilling, in case of his being appointed Professor, to make the declaration, that 'he conforms to the liturgy of the Church of England as by law established.' In what way such conformity can be reconciled with dissent, is a question to be determined by the conscience of the individual himself, with which I do not feel myself entitled to interfere. It is sufficient for our present purpose to remark, that he who refuses his assent to the doctrines of the church, is a person whom it was designed by the law of subscription to exclude from its pale, and who cannot be in any sense considered a member of that establishment.

I trust that I shall gain credit in declaring, that bigotry or intolerance, in any shape, is not only foreign to my feelings, but is an object of my perfect abhorrence. The Dissenters I sincerely respect for their sincerity, and deeply lament their conscientious separation from us. At the same time I shall not conceal my decided conviction, that it is our duty, so long as that disagreement continues, to keep the doors of the Universities closed against them. These public institutions have hitherto been the surest supports of the national church, which can never be so effectually

shaken, as by introducing open and active hostility to her doctrines into the seats of national education. Is it then possible that Sir J. Smith, or his friends, can feel surprise at an objection being made to granting him admission into either of the Universities? It is to the church Establishment that we owe our endowments, our privileges, our immunities, and every other advantage that we enjoy. Can he therefore wonder at a reluctance to invest him with an office of rank and influence amongst us, in open and declared defiance of those provisions, which for above two hundred years have been judged necessary to protect that Establishment? For the election of a Dissenter to any of our Professorships, there is not a single colourable precedent; though Sir James produces one, which has, I suspect, startled all his readers: it is that of the late accomplished Dr. Tennant.

“The election of the late Dr. Tennant to the Professorship of Chemistry, here alluded to by Sir Joseph Banks, had indeed done honour to the University. Though long ago member of the University, that gentleman, for many years, had no connexion with it, *and was moreover a Dissenter.*” Page 23.

There is one assertion in this sentence so notoriously contrary to fact, that it does not prepossess us in favour of the remainder. Dr. Tennant had been, for seventeen years before his election, a member of the senate, in which he was

in the habit of exercising his franchise, and had consequently as much connexion with the University as any member, not actually one of its officers, can have. The assertion of his being a Dissenter rests, as far as appears, altogether on the authority of Sir J. Smith; an authority, which his readers will agree, is not always to be relied upon. There is no mention of the fact in the very beautiful and interesting Memoir, printed by one of his most intimate friends; and it was a circumstance not likely to have been overlooked by a biographer. I have also learnt from three gentlemen who were well acquainted with him, that they entirely disbelieve the assertion. Supposing it, however, to be well-founded, how can Dr. Tennant's election be quoted as a precedent? It is certain that the electors neither knew nor suspected his dissent: they possessed indeed his own distinct evidence of the contrary, in his subscription at the degree of Bachelor of Physic, when he declared himself to be *bona fide* a member of the church of England: and again, a few years after, when on the occasion of taking his degree of M. D., at no very early period of life, he signed his full assent both to the doctrines and the discipline of the Establishment; an act which, had he sincerely dissented, would have been in the highest degree disingenuous and discreditable. The mention, therefore, of Dr. Tennant's case

cannot affect any point in dispute, and can only be considered as conveying a severe, and, I believe, unjust reflection upon an illustrious and lamented character.

I have searched Sir J. Smith's *Considerations* without finding a reason, or shadow of a reason, alleged for waving the established principles and practice of the University in his favour. He talks, indeed, of 'arbitrary and pernicious limitations;' but this is obviously to assume the whole subject in dispute; a mode of reasoning to which he is particularly addicted. He forgets that the question itself is, whether the limitations, to which he alludes, be pernicious or salutary. From his friends, however, with whom I have courted discussion, I have been able to hear one, and only one, argument in his favour; it is this: that the subject which he wishes to teach to the University is not divinity, but botany; in which pursuit a person's theological creed can be of no consequence. To this reasoning it must be replied, that those who, in a particular case, establish a precedent for the admission of Dissenters to offices in the University, will be answerable for all the results to which that precedent may lead. We may expect that one of the first results will be, the abolition of subscription at taking degrees, which cannot, in that event, reasonably and consistently be refused: the inevitable consequence

of this, the introduction of Dissenters of every description to Fellowships, and the various offices of tuition in the different colleges, is a matter which no friend of our establishment can contemplate without most serious alarm. It will be no answer to allege, that these apprehensions are overcharged and visionary, or that this is the jargon of intolerance. The danger, far from being imaginary, is so obvious, that no person, who does not wilfully close his eyes, can fail to perceive it. I am not so ill-informed of the history of our University, as not to know, that direct attempts have heretofore been made to abolish subscriptions at taking degrees, with the avowed object of admitting Dissenters into the colleges: *graces* to this effect were brought forward in our senate in the years 1771 and 1787; which, though abortive, were countenanced by a pretty large party in the place itself. In both these attempts the leading persons were confessedly of the Unitarian persuasion; a party which is now scarcely heard of in the University, and which amongst the young men possesses, I believe, no hold at all: but abroad it is strong and active, and shews itself hostile in the extreme to our ecclesiastical constitution. It will be seen by a letter of Dr. Priestley's to Mr. Pitt, published in 1787, how much the Dissenters relied on efforts then making at Cambridge for procuring them a participation in those collegiate

advantages and emoluments, which have hitherto been appropriated to the members of the Church of England.

I am perfectly aware that there are at the present day some individuals, distinguished alike by talent and science, who entertain the wish of separating our Universities from the church establishment, after the example of institutions, where, as in Pavia, and in Edinburgh, Sir James Smith's own *alma mater*, 'the studies and appointments are free as air;' and who are zealous for his success at Cambridge, more perhaps from this motive, than even for the sake of Botanical science: others, however, may be led by their influence to concur in this project, without extending a view to the consequences. I do not mean to lay any stress upon the connexion which Sir James hints at, between Botany and Scriptural illustration; but I am sure it will be admitted, that a person of talents and ingenuity, in the situation of a Professor, possesses abundant opportunities and advantages for influencing the minds of young men, upon other topics, besides those of his particular profession. Sir J. Smith promises that he will, in case of his being elected, become a member of the University, though he cannot proceed to a degree. But will it not, I ask, be considered every where as inconsistent and unseemly, to retain the holder of such an

appointment in the garb of an undergraduate? Will it not be painful to see a gentleman of his rank in society denied a free admission to our Library and Museum, as well as other privileges, befitting his age, station, and character? And will not this feeling occasion efforts to confer upon him a degree, which can only be effected, by breaking down the barrier that excludes sectaries from our body?

It is highly worthy of remark, that one of the earliest measures taken by the Long Parliament for the subversion of our ecclesiastical and civil constitution, was a declaration against this same subscription: in the year 1640, the House of Commons voted, upon the report of their committee, that “the subscription in the University of Cambridge, to the three articles of the 36th canon, is against law and the liberty of the subject, and ought not to be pressed upon any student or graduate whatsoever.” Such progress did those legislators make in their ideas of law and the liberty of the subject, that three or four years after, they sent to Cambridge a Parliamentary Commission, which expelled the greater part of the Masters and Fellows of the different colleges, for refusing to subscribe a test of their own imposing, and supplied the vacant places, without any attention to qualifications or statutes, with friends and partisans of their own.

If the Establishment is to be maintained at all, it is absolutely necessary that the Universities should not become the scenes of sectarianism. This will hardly be disputed by any one, who considers the influence which these institutions possess upon the minds of the higher and middle orders of society. It is useless to urge, that the ecclesiastical state is sufficiently supported by the law of the land, when it is considered that the persons themselves, who make and repeal the laws, receive their educations here, and must be expected to think and act in their legislative capacities, according to the ideas and principles, which they have imbibed during the period of their academical residence.

In p. 50. Sir J. Smith invites a comparison between his own case and that of Sir Isaac Newton and Mr. Locke, in the following notable and extraordinary words:—

“ Would Newton or Locke, those distinguished advocates of the Christian faith, be *now* excluded from Cambridge or from Oxford, on account of their peculiar opinions upon difficult and speculative points? Surely both Universities would be but too happy to erase from their records the memory of their having undervalued the talents, or persecuted the principles, of either.”

Whatever similarity there may be found in point of science between Sir Isaac Newton, John Locke, and Sir James Edward Smith, there cer-

tainly can be none at all in circumstances. Where did Sir James discover that Newton was ever 'excluded' from Cambridge, 'on account of his peculiar opinions,' or on any account whatever? Where does he learn, that his talents were undervalued, or his principles persecuted in this University? I have perused the words again and again, hoping to find that they might bear some different interpretation; but no other meaning can possibly be attached to them. An account could hardly be given more contrary to the facts, as far as I have been able to ascertain them. If records and history are to be trusted, Sir I. Newton never experienced any treatment in his University, but that of unbounded deference and respect for his talents, and the fullest confidence in his principles. Horace, indeed, remarks—*Urit enim fulgore suo, qui prægravat artes Infra se positas*,—(which Sir James will, perhaps, apply to his own case;) but, if ever there was a perfect exception to this general rule, it is that of Sir I. Newton's treatment at Cambridge. As his merits were unprecedented, so likewise were the honours paid to him during his lifetime without example. So great was the confidence reposed in his attachment to the Establishment, that the University, at an alarming crisis, when it had incurred the resentment of James II., by its determination to support

the Church of England against all inroads, deputed Newton as one of its commissioners to defend and justify its conduct. His case, therefore, is remarkably inapplicable to that of Sir James Smith; who, till he can produce some evidence of Newton's having been excluded, or undervalued, or persecuted at Cambridge, must be considered to have pronounced an unfounded 'libel upon the University.'

The mention of Locke, his other prototype and fellow-sufferer, proceeds upon a palpable blunder. He seems to have heard something about Locke having been deprived of his Studentship at Christ Church; but he does not know, what a person who speaks at all about that philosopher, might have been expected to know, that this expulsion proceeded neither from his University, nor from his college, but from the ministry of Charles II.; and that the ground of it was a suspicion not of his *religious principles*, but of his *politics*. Locke was abroad at the time, and was suspected of holding communications with certain disaffected persons: the mandate for his expulsion, as well as the whole correspondence between Lord Sunderland the Minister, and Bishop Fell the Dean of Christ Church, has been printed in the Appendix to Mr. Fox's Historical Fragment; an account of it is likewise given in Bishop Law's Life of Locke, prefixed to

his works, and may be found in every common biographical collection.

Sir J. Smith endeavours to make the parallel complete, by avowing that his religious notions are the same as those of Newton and Locke. He says—

“ If the doctrinal sentiments of Locke and of Newton, which it would be dishonest in the writer of this, when questioned, though he disclaims all controversy, to disown, prove the cause of his exclusion from the University of Cambridge, or of his being received with less cordiality, or Christian charity, at her altars, he will not want motives of consolation.” p. 51.

Now, if he had told us, either what his own opinions *are*, or what *he conceives* those of Newton and Locke to have been, we should be able to form some judgment of this resemblance. But as he is silent on both heads, the question is what Mathematicians call an *Unlimited Problem*, in which nothing can be determined without some assumption being made. I have seen it mentioned that the votaries of Socinianism sometimes lay claim to these two illustrious characters, as favourers of their opinions; but I have never been able to learn that they could produce sufficient grounds for such an assertion. In Newton's Works I have not been able to discover any thing from which such sentiments can possibly be deduced or inferred; there are, on the contrary, various

particulars in the life of that ornament of his species, which render the supposition highly improbable.

As for Locke, whence does it appear, that he denied either the Divinity of our Saviour, or the Atonement? The contrary may be inferred from his Letters to Bishop Stillingfleet, upon the subject of our Lord's Divinity, in which he repels the insinuation of his having impugned the doctrine, as well as from his express interpretation of some passages in the New Testament. However, not only Locke and Newton, are doomed to serve as a parallel to Sir James, but Erasmus also :

“ Erasmus, with all his doctrinal ambiguity, would probably be as joyfully received, and as readily appointed a Cambridge Professor, as heretofore. It were a libel on the University to suppose the contrary.” p. 50.

As to a comparison between the two characters, it requires a strong fancy to perceive the slightest resemblance. But what is Sir James thinking about, when he talks of the doctrinal ambiguities of Erasmus, in spite of which he was heretofore appointed a Cambridge Professor? It is truly astonishing to find a literary gentleman so ill-informed upon the most common pieces of biography. Erasmus was made Greek Pro-

fessor* in the year 1509, having previously proceeded to the degree of B. D. at Cambridge. In 1511, he became Margaret Professor of Divinity. But Sir J. Smith should recollect, that both these appointments took place some years previous to the Reformation: and that the 'doctrinal ambiguities,' of which he speaks, existed in a much later period of his life, long after all connexion with this University had ceased. However, it would be a pity that the supposition, which he makes in so triumphant a tone, should remain unnoticed. I reply, therefore, that if Erasmus, or as learned a man as Erasmus, were now to be candidate for a Professorship in Greek or Divinity at Cambridge, avowing at the same time, his assent to the Pope's supremacy, or to Transubstantiation, or to any other of the dogmas of the Romish church, he would infallibly be rejected as an unqualified candidate; unless, indeed, we should suppose the electors to be capable of violating their duty, their oaths, and the most solemn responsibility that can attach to men.

* I anticipate the charge of anachronism, in claiming Erasmus among my predecessors; although Dr. Barrow in his *Prælection*, or inaugural oration, did the same. The Regius Professorship was certainly not founded till 1546: but there existed in the University before that year an office of teacher or reader in Greek, of which Erasmus was, as far as I can ascertain, the earliest holder.

Sir J. Smith, in another part of his pamphlet, has recourse to authorities of a different description in favour of his pretensions :

“ There is one striking circumstance which I cannot but mention with peculiar satisfaction, in opposition to some facts already related ; that *no objection against me has ever been started by any one of the dignified clergy, either of Oxford or Cambridge, nor by any clergyman distinguished for literature or eminent acquirements.*” p. 20.

This is, to borrow one of Sir James's terms, an ‘outrageous and sweeping declaration.’ A writer, who expected to gain any credit for such an assertion as the above, should have added ‘to the best of my knowledge,’ or ‘as far as I have heard,’ or some other saving clause ; without which it is obvious that, unless he had actually questioned upon the subject every dignified clergyman in England (for all are either of Oxford or Cambridge), he ran the risk of seeing his assertion clash, as it does most outrageously, with matters of fact. I hope, however, that he does not mean to defend his sweeping declaration, by saying that the strong objections to his pretensions, which many of the dignified clergy do actually express, were not first *started* by themselves, but originated with others. Such an apology would be called prevarication, and would, after all, be irreconcilable to fact. In the latter

clause, sweeping and outrageous as it seems, he has secured his retreat. 'No clergyman,' he says, 'distinguished for literature or eminent acquirements' has started an objection to him: and who is made the judge of a clergyman's literary distinction and acquirements? Why, Sir James himself; who, as soon as any one objects to him, deprives him directly of all claim to either. But will the clergy or the public acquiesce in Sir James's decision on literary merits? Of this I am morally certain, that till he has produced some very different specimen of his own literary judgment and taste, than his *Considerations respecting Cambridge* afford, there is not one of us, who will be mortified by his censure. Of those clergymen who have expressed, both in private and in public, a decided opinion against Sir James's admission into the University, there are several, whom the world has been pleased to think not entirely destitute of literary acquirements: among my own personal intimates, I could mention two, who, however low they may be placed in Sir James's literary scale, occupy a very high station in that of public opinion; one having acquired such eminent and decided reputation for science and literature, as to justify his election, at a very early period of life, to two situations of the utmost importance and dignity; both which he fills with the highest honour to himself and benefit to the Uni-

versity: the other being so distinguished by his publications in the most arduous department of classical literature, as to have established his fame in every country of Europe, where such learning is cultivated. Their reputation is not likely to suffer by the censure of the President of the Linnæan Society.

*Haud timeo, si jam nequeo defendere crimen
Cum tantis commune viris.*

The sentence which immediately follows, seems, at first sight, much more important:

“On the contrary, several bishops have expressed their serious disapprobation, that any candidate should make a pretence of religion to supersede a person, whose qualifications were undisputed, and against whom no valid objection had been attempted to be raised.”

The bishops are, undoubtedly, the natural guardians of the interests as well as the integrity of our Church: had we, therefore, learned, that several bishops had declared, that they saw no objection to a Dissenter being admitted to fill offices in our Universities, the professed nurseries of the Church of England, this would, I grant, have been a piece of weighty information. But does the above sentence amount to that? or does it amount to any thing at all? When examined, it turns out to be nothing more than this:—Several bishops, understanding either from Sir James or his friends, that other candidates had set up a

pretence of religious disqualification against him, with a view of promoting their own interests, and supposing, of course, this representation to be correct, expressed, what every honest man would have expressed, a serious disapprobation of such disingenuous conduct. The wording of the sentence bears internal evidence of Sir James's own logic; the last clause, "*against whom no valid objection had been attempted to be raised,*" being a manifest *petitio principii*: the whole question concerns the *validity* of the objections, and is assumed, in these words, as already settled and determined.

Before we come to the consideration of our last topic, the conduct and motives of those who obstruct the views of Sir J. Smith, it will be proper to notice a few misapprehensions and incorrect statements, in addition to those already mentioned. Indeed, the greater part of his pamphlet may be said to consist of such mistakes, as are sure to be committed by a person, who takes little pains to investigate facts, and recollects but inaccurately the information which he has received. Some of these mistakes affect slightly the matters in discussion, but were they not to be corrected, might hereafter be considered as admitted facts. In p. 11, is a mistatement of some importance:

"With regard to subscription, I found that the Professor, previous to his admission, has only to sign a declaration to the

Vice Chancellor, in these words: 'I do declare that I will conform to the Liturgy of the Church of England, as it is by law established.' It seems that an alteration in the laws of the University had taken place, many years ago, respecting this point. Many laymen might reasonably object to giving their solemn assent to matters of an ecclesiastical nature, which had made no part of their studies, without feeling any hostility to the church or its members. For the accommodation of such, the obligation to subscribe was set aside. With respect to the degree of Master of Arts, the only one to which I could with propriety aspire, I found myself excluded, but without any prejudice to my principal object." p. 11.

Respecting what he calls 'an alteration in the laws of the University,' his assertion and his inference are equally incorrect. The only change which has taken place respecting subscriptions, was in the year 1772, and had no relation to the admission of Professors, but to persons taking the degree of Bachelor of Arts; who before that year subscribed the three articles of the 36th canon, in which, among other matters, they gave their assent to all the contents of our thirty-nine articles as the doctrines of Scripture. But it being considered, that young men had not, at the time of taking their first degree, possessed either opportunities or leisure to examine all the particular points of faith, a grace was in that year passed by the senate, which very properly changed that subscription into a declaration, to be signed at taking the degree of B. A., that the person 'is

'*bona fide* a member of the church of England as by law established;' a declaration, by which all holders of sectarian opinions are as effectually excluded as before*. The same persons, however, when they apply for the degree of Master of Arts, continue to subscribe to the articles themselves, which they are at that period of life of course supposed to have examined. Thus the obligation to subscribe was not 'set aside,' as Sir J. Smith says, but the form of subscription was changed; not 'for the accommodation of laymen,' but of very young men, who, having been educated as members of the church, possessed minds free from all idea of dissent.

Speaking of his application to Professor Martyn, 'his long-valued friend,' in 1813, he says,

"His health had for some time been so far restored, that he enjoyed a serene old age, in his domestic retirement in Bedfordshire; and the prospect of his dissolution appeared more remote at seventy-eight than it had sometimes done many years before. Three persons had long been canvassing for his place, and there was no reason to apprehend that a fresh candidate, in whose anticipated success he might take an interest, would occasion him any uneasy sensations." p. 12.

I have heard strong doubts expressed, whether the three gentlemen alluded to did canvass previously to the year 1813, when Sir James's example obliged them to make their intentions generally

* The same subscription was afterwards extended to Bachelors of Law and Physic, and to Graduates in Music.

known. It was natural that their views should never have been kept secret from their particular friends; but I have no reason to believe that they had set the example of public applications, not having been myself canvassed, up to the present moment, directly or indirectly, in favour of any of them, (though there is only one with whom I am not personally acquainted) and never having heard of a canvass taking place, before Sir James's 'free and lofty range in the world at large.' The indelicacy of a public canvass for a place, to be vacated by the death of a person in the enjoyment of good health, is, no doubt, much diminished by having obtained the previous consent of the person himself; which, it is reasonable to conclude, was the case with Sir J. Smith. But it seems unfair to transfer the invidiousness, if there be any, of such a step, from himself to his opponents.

In p. 18, Sir J. Smith remarks, "The objection raised against me as not being a member of the University was easily removable, had I not met with a diversity of opinion upon this point." — "Nevertheless, the repeated solicitations of friends, personally interested for me, have, from time to time, brought me to the brink of yielding this point; and once I should actually have done so, had it not been in vacation time." That there is some mistake in this sentence cannot be doubted. I have always found that admissions

could be as readily effected in vacation as in term time: there must, therefore, have been, in his own case, an unusual obstacle, which prevented his getting further than the *brink*.

I remember indeed to have heard that, his application to be admitted of a particular college was unsuccessful; and I heard it with concern, being under the erroneous impression, that he had entirely withdrawn himself from the Dissenters. I was aware, that many excellent and valuable persons, educated in the opinions of dissent, have become, from examination and conviction, sincere members of our establishment; and I rejoiced to learn that this was the case with a gentleman, who enjoyed so splendid a reputation for science as Sir J. Smith. My informant was evidently deceived by the circumstance of his attending divine worship, and receiving the communion, in our church; which to me also appeared an evidence of the change in his opinions: nor was I undeceived in this notion, which has been widely propagated, till a long time after. I remember to have given, under this impression, my decided advice to his friend, that Sir J. Smith should immediately become member of a college, and proceed to a degree; alleging, that this was the most likely method of reconciling the University to the idea of his eventually becoming a candidate for its Professorship. I did this, however, with-

out having by any means made up my own mind to give him my individual vote. Indeed, I neither knew with certainty who the other candidates might be, nor could I see the propriety of anticipating an election, which was to take place at the death of a gentleman, who was then enjoying as good health as any one of the aspirants, or as any one of the electors to his office. But I was certainly alive to a sense of the honour, which our institution would receive from reckoning amongst its members, so distinguished a name as that of Sir James Smith. The question itself of the continuance of his dissent having now been set at rest by his own pamphlet, I merely allude to the matters just mentioned, in order to prevent misapprehension, or the necessity of future explanations.

The following statement must not pass unnoticed :

“ The Botanic garden at Cambridge, notwithstanding the care and skill of its late or present Curator, has long wanted that patronage, which is requisite to maintain its due perfection. The smoky neighbourhood, and exhausted soil, are great obstacles to the preservation of its present stock of curious or delicate plants, nor are its resources adequate to the acquisition of the novelties daily brought into the country.” p. 40.

From this representation, that censure is intended to fall somewhere, is pretty clear; but to whom Sir James Smith would attach the blame, is not quite

so evident. If he means to insinuate, as I suspect he does, that it is at all attributable to the University, this must be reckoned among the unjust reflections upon that body, with which his pamphlet abounds. He will find, upon inquiry, that sufficient sums have been from time to time supplied by the senate, with unsparing liberality, for the purposes of the Botanical garden. If, however, he intends that the censure should fall upon his friend, the Botanical Professor, I am sorry to be obliged to concur with him on this point. His having retained the situation of Dr. Walker's Reader, under whose immediate patronage the garden is supposed to be placed, long after he had given up all thoughts of returning to the University, and without the inducement of emolument, or any other temptation, really seems to be unworthy of so respectable and amiable a character.

In the course of his recommendations to the University, to go beyond its own limits in search of a Professor, Sir J. Smith makes this pithy remark :—

“ The question indeed comes into this short compass, whether a Professorship should be destined to benefit the Professor, or the University?

“ The above question, however, seems entirely of modern date ; and that it should be a question at all, is remarkable. Nothing of the kind appears ever to have been started at Cambridge, when its Professorships were founded.” p. 43.

Sir James is right in saying that this question is 'entirely of modern date;' it never having been heard of before the publication of his pamphlet. He is mistaken, however, in identifying this remarkable question of his, with that of a stranger's appointment to a Professorship, which depends upon a question of a quite different kind—whether such an appointment would be beneficial or not to the University: a question which, by the bye, as far as he is concerned, his own pamphlet will go some way towards determining.

Sir J. Smith, having travelled onward as far as his forty-eighth page, in one unvaried strain of egotism, at length thinks it becoming to make some apology:—

“As I have entered on the subject, I hope the reader will excuse my egotism, which from the very nature of the thing is unavoidable.

“I must therefore plead a collateral circumstance, against my exclusion on any of the before-mentioned grounds. The late Dr. John Sibthorp, Professor of Botany at Oxford, who died in 1794, left an estate for the purpose of publishing his *Flora Græca*, a splendid work, the drawings of which he had caused to be prepared, but he did not live to make any descriptions, nor to compose the historical and critical part of the work. His executors were directed to find out a person for this purpose. They fixed upon me, nor were any objections raised by that orthodox University. On the contrary, I met every where with congratulation and approbation, &c.” p. 48.

What resemblance there can exist between the

two cases, of a person being employed by executors to publish a posthumous work, and of his being elected by an University to fill one of its offices, I profess myself totally unable to discover: leaving this point, therefore, to be settled by better adepts in the science of analogy, I shall only call the attention of the reader to the title bestowed upon Oxford—‘*that orthodox University.*’ Whether it be against Oxford, or against Cambridge, that this sneer is levelled, may perhaps be doubted. I am aware, indeed, that some people are in the practice of applying the term, *orthodox*, to an undue and illiberal stiffness of discipline or opinion; a practice for which I entertain feelings the very reverse of respect. That Sir J. Smith possibly might have intended to convey such an accusation against Oxford, I will not deny: but as he is professedly drawing a contrast between us and the sister University, to the advantage of the latter, I am rather disposed to understand, that *orthodox* is intended by him, in its proper sense, to imply an attachment to the true and unperverted doctrines of our church; and, consequently, that Cambridge is insinuated to be deficient in this particular. Should the latter interpretation be right, I can only say, that the reflection is unjust and unmerited. In steady and sincere attachment to the church, no persons were ever more distinguished, than our University

has been, from the date of the Reformation to the present day. Let it not be forgotten, that the establishment may be said to have owed its very origin to this place. Cranmer, and Ridley, and Latimer, the fathers of our church, were Fellows of colleges in Cambridge. The first five protestant Archbishops of Canterbury, under whose superintendence it was settled and secured upon its present footing, and to whom it would be unjust to deny much of the praise due to that great work, were taken in succession from the bosom of this University*. In the time of the Long Parliament, as before noticed, the greater part of the members of our colleges exhibited the strongest possible proof of their sincere devotion to the Church of England, by resigning their whole maintenance, and by preferring indigence and beggary, to apostasy from their principles and their spiritual allegiance. Some years afterwards, this University braved the full vengeance of arbitrary power, by resisting, under the most trying circumstances, the mandate of James II.; which, though not attacking its own immediate privileges, yet was obviously one of a series of

* Archbishops Cranmer, Parker, Grindall, Whitgift, and Bancroft, held the Primacy from the Reformation to 1610. They had all been resident Fellows, and three of them Heads of Houses in Cambridge.

measures designed to overthrow the ecclesiastical constitution. From that time to the present, we shall find, that Cambridge has been steady and undeviating, in her support of our apostolic faith, and in the discouragement of heterodoxy. The number and eminence of her divines is too well known, to require notice. On every occasion, where any measure has been proposed, tending to the real benefit of the establishment, she has aided it, not only by her name and authority, but by the liberal and unsparing exertions, both public and private, of her pecuniary resources. Her zeal has, perhaps, never been ostentatious, and has been shown less in profession than in action; above all, she has never displayed the least tendency to uncharitable or unnecessary strictness. But Sir James will find himself lamentably deceived, if he expects, on this account, to meet with indifference and lukewarmness in the cause of religion, or with any disposition to suffer inroads upon the real defences of the establishment.

Many other passages may be as open to animadversion as those which I have selected; but the reader will, I trust, be satisfied with the quotations already given, as abundantly proving the habit of inaccurate statement and unsound reasoning, which pervades the whole publication. At

length then we arrive at the consideration of the treatment which Sir James Smith has been pleased to bestow upon his real or supposed adversaries. The first persons that fall under his censures are the Trustees of the Botanical Garden, who, as we have already seen, declined the extraordinary proposal made to them in the year 1813, by Professor Martyn, of resigning the Lectureship in his favour.

This garden owes its origin to the liberality of Dr. Richard Walker, Vice-Master of Trinity College, the intimate friend of Dr. Bentley, a gentleman, celebrated in our University annals for his steady and resolute attachment, under difficult circumstances, to his illustrious principal; but whose name is, I fear, better known to the world from the unfair satire of Pope, in which he is represented as the humble follower and hat-bearer of the mighty Aristarchus. The two offices of Reader and Curator of the garden being absolutely committed to the nomination of the five Trustees*, they would surely have been guilty of

* It may, perhaps, be of use to print the following extract from an *Account of the Donation of the Botanic Garden*, as given by Dr. Walker himself, in the year 1763.

“ This house and garden, with five or six tenements adjoining, were purchased about two years ago by the said Vice-Master at the price of sixteen hundred pounds. All which he then gave to the University by a clause in his will, with full security not to alter that clause; but upon further advice he has now given and

a direct breach of the trust reposed in them, had they suffered Professor Martyn, or any other individual, to force upon them the appointment of a Reader. Sir James Smith says, indeed, on this subject—

“ There was some reason, possibly, in the dislike of a previous promise on their part, and of the Professor's seeming to nominate his successor to the office in question ; though he merely signified a wish to resign this particular appointment, in order that the design of its foundation might be fulfilled. That this might not

granted the same by indentures of lease and release to the Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars of the said University for ever. In trust, nevertheless, that the premises so given shall be employed for the sole use and purpose of a public Botanic Garden, under the government and direction of such persons, and subject to such statutes, rules, and orders, as upon deliberate thought and best advice, the said Vice-Master judges most proper for answering the intent of the garden.

“ And with this view he constitutes and appoints the Chancellor, or in his absence the Vice-Chancellor, the Master of Trinity College, the Provost of King's College, the Master of St. John's College, and the Professor of Physic, and their successors for the time being, particular Inspectors and Governors of the said Garden, with full power to regulate and govern the same.

“ And as the design which the garden is intended to promote, will constantly require two officers, a Reader on Plants, and a Curator or Superintendent of the works in the garden ; the said Vice-Master has appointed the Reverend Mr. Thomas Martyn, now Titular Professor of Botany, to be the first Reader, and Mr. Charles Miller, the first Curator ; both subject to such trusts and duties as are mentioned in the conveyance, he believing them to be well qualified for the said offices : and for the future he leaves the choice and election of the said Readers and Curators, as the said offices may become vacant, to the said Governors or Trustees, with his approbation during his natural life ; and after his death to a majority of the said Governors for ever : in confidence that they will elect persons best qualified to execute the design of the Garden.”

shackle the election of any future Professor, I voluntarily proposed to accept the place of Dr. Walker's Reader conditionally, and to resign it in case of my not being chosen Professor hereafter. This however did not avail, nor could I then perfectly understand the cause of my disappointment." p. 15.

The only cause of his feeling any disappointment, was the extravagance of his expectations. So far was this 'voluntary proposal,' which he mentions, from altering the case, that, unless an unconditional resignation had been made in the first instance, the trustees would have ill consulted their dignity or their duty, had they listened to any stipulations or proposals whatever. Though the refusal was worded in the most polite and flattering terms, yet so angry is Sir James at not having been immediately able to discover *all* the reasons which might have produced it, that he overlooks the plain motive of attention to their duty, and discovers other motives, of such a sort as, I am persuaded, never entered the imagination of any body but himself. Though it does not appear from his account, that any one of the trustees, except Dr. Davie, approved his scheme, yet he confines his complaints to two, each of whom has since paid the debt of nature.

"The amiable Master of St. John's, Dr. Craven, a friend of Professor Martyn, received me in the kindest manner, professing his entire ignorance of the subject of Botany, with a disposition to

be guided by better judges ; and declaring a perfect freedom from all prepossession, or any particular objection against me. Afterwards I found his manner and sentiments changed. He had evidently been acted upon to my disadvantage, and he was too honest to disguise his feelings, though he prudently guarded his expressions." p. 17.

It must occur to every one as probable, that Dr. Craven discovered, in the interval between the two visits, that Sir James was a member of a dissenting congregation ; a circumstance that he might deem a sufficient reason for not introducing him into the University : on which supposition, his behaving in such a manner as to discourage all hope of his support, was at once considerate and candid. The other person meets with most ungentle treatment :

" Sir Isaac Pennington, late President of St. John's College, having held the Professorship of Physic twenty years, without reading lectures, was of course, unfavourably desposed towards a person, whose only pretensions were founded in a desire to be useful. He ruled his venerable superior, and I know, from good authority, that he did not regulate his opposition to me by the principles of justice or truth. Indeed his letter to Professor Martyn confirms this. It declared, a month after the meeting of the Trustees, reasons which were never hinted before, and which from the dispersion of the parties, and the removal of the Vice-Chancellor on account of his increasing illness, could not be canvassed or controverted." p. 17.

I sincerely wish that Sir James Smith had not

written this injurious passage; and he would himself wish the same, were he aware of the disgust which it cannot fail to have produced. What advantage, or what gratification could he propose to himself, in venting this bitterness upon the character of one, who is, at all events, sheltered from his vengeance by the grave? Had he possessed the most certain proofs of the hostile and dishonourable conduct, of which he accuses Sir Isaac Pennington, yet what object can be answered by the accusation, when that hostility is no longer to be dreaded? Might not his resentment have been assuaged, by considering that its object is now gone to a tribunal, where every action and every motive will be revealed, and where judgment will be given without error, and without partiality? Let us, however, just consider the accusation as we find it stated. I wish to premise, that, although I was in the habit of meeting Sir Isaac Pennington in general society, as well as on occasions of University business, yet I never possessed such an acquaintance with him, as would entitle me to step forward in defence of his character: I regard the subject, therefore, as an unconcerned and unprejudiced stranger. Sir James opens his charge with a misrepresentation. Sir I. Pennington regularly discharged all the duties required or expected from his office: he presided at the disputations in the Schools, he

presented medical students to their degrees, and performed other incidental duties of the Regius Professorship : a course of medical lectures was given by another Professor, to whom they more appropriately belonged. However, his *determinations*, given at the conclusion of every medical *act*, being the results of his own reading and opinions, were, in the strictest sense, *lectures*. But, supposing the assertion to be as true, as it is now shown to be decidedly incorrect, that Sir I. Pennington was in the habit of neglecting his own duties, how can it be thence inferred, that he was unfavourable to every one, who wished to discharge the duties of a different department? Sir James says, ‘*of course*’—but by what criterion does he judge of human motives? Such a motive, as that here assigned, never had a place in any but the meanest and worst constituted mind. With respect to what follows, whether it be true or not, that Sir I. Pennington ‘ruled’ Dr. Craven, I neither know, nor care to inquire; but of this I am convinced, that the charges of malignity, injustice, and falsehood, which Sir J. S. adduces from what he calls ‘good authority,’ cannot, and ought not, to be received upon any anonymous authority whatever, particularly when the only person who could have effectually refuted them, is beyond the reach of human inquiry. He appeals, indeed, to Sir Isaac’s letter to Professor Martyn, which he had already mentioned :

“ On the 14th of July one of the Trustees, the late Sir Isaac Pennington, then Professor of Physic, wrote a letter to Professor Martyn, which unravelled the mystery. This letter declared that my ‘ not being a member of the University, nor of the Church of England, made a great difficulty in granting any appointment at Cambridge.’ The Professor justly replied, that these reasons were totally irrelevant as to Dr. Walker’s Reader, or even the Botanical Professorship; that one of them might any day be removed, and the other, as far as I was concerned, was no real objection.” p. 16.

The sentence extracted from the letter proves no violation of justice or truth; nor, indeed, does it prove any thing, except that the writer was aware of the probable feeling of the University on the subject: of the *truth* of the declaration, that his ‘ not being a member of the University, or of the Church, is a great difficulty in the way of his having any appointment amongst us,’ Sir James has already had some proof; and if he keep his promise of persevering in his scheme, will probably have yet more convincing evidence. The letter, as far as can be judged from a single extract, was judicious and friendly, and deserved his thanks rather than his abuse: fortunate, indeed, would it have been for him, had he taken the hint which it contained. Respecting the arguments, which were or were not used at the meeting of the trustees, even were it now of the least importance to ascertain such matter, we should hardly listen to the information of Sir. J. Smith,

or of any other person, who was not present. But of this he may be assured, that his attack upon the character of Sir I. Pennington, unsupported as it is by a shadow of evidence, will be considered as an unfounded calumny against the dead, and will reflect discredit upon no one but its author.

I quote the sentence that immediately follows this attack, merely as it connects the last topic with the opposition made to him by the Tutors; which is to be the next subject of our consideration:—

“The reader will now trace these reasons to their true source. They are still brought out, as occasion may require, very solemnly, like a superstitious image, in case of pretended public danger; that is, whenever a few interested people wish to overawe *their betters*, or to crush abilities or claims superior to those of the candidates whom they secretly favour. This will hereafter more clearly appear.” p. 17.

Sir James begins his fourth chapter, which is devoted to his late unsuccessful effort to introduce himself into the University, by clearing the way before him, and removing all scruples about the propriety of his measures:

“When I paid a visit to Professor Martyn, two summers ago, he expressed much concern at the difficulties that had been so often purposely thrown in the way of his duty, of providing Botanical instruction for the University. He could not but perceive that the interests of science, and the claims of the pub-

lic, were not held in due estimation; and he earnestly exhorted me to co-operate with him in rendering his appointment effectual while he lived. I assured him of my ready concurrence, in so desirable an intention, and promised to miss no opportunity of accomplishing it. My friend, the Rev. Dr. Webb, Master of Clare Hall, being the Vice Chancellor for the present year, 1818, I conferred with him on the subject; and he was pleased to acquiesce in the views of the worthy Professor, which indeed were so evidently just and correct, as to admit of no dispute; nor could any opposition to them be reasonably anticipated." p. 52.

The reader, who must be by this time familiar with Sir James's mode of arguing, will only smile at the words "*so evidently just and correct, as to admit of no dispute.*" If, however, he was so convinced of the indisputable correctness of his plan, why was the knowledge of it to be confined to Dr. Webb, Professor Martyn, and himself? Why was not some previous communication made to the Trustees of Dr. Walker's foundation; who, before the nomination of a deputy for Dr. Walker's Reader, ought, in point of decency as well as right, to have been consulted? Or why was not the opinion of the Heads of Houses to be taken upon a subject of so novel a description? He takes a distinction between being appointed to fill an office, and to be the *locum tenens* of another:

"Whatever doubts might have been started to my eligibility for the Professorship, on the grounds explained in the foregoing

chapter, there had been no supposition at any time of my incompetency, or unwillingness, to perform its duties. The temporary resignation of Dr. Walker's Readership in my favour, while the Professor lived, or his annual appointment of me, as his deputy in that office, could therefore be attended with no inconvenience whatever." p. 52.

Now, in the first place, it is neither usual nor reasonable, that any one holding an office, the duties of which he is himself unable to perform, should be suffered to appoint as a deputy, a person who is not approved by those, in whom the appointment, or at least the control, of the office is vested. In the present case, the approbation of the trustees was not obtained, nor were they even consulted. In the next place, I am prepared to contend, in opposition to the above quotation, that it never can be right to select as *locum tenens*, a person who would be considered *disqualified* to succeed to the office itself, in case of a vacancy; or, in other words, it cannot be proper to commit the duties of an office to one who is deemed improper for the office itself. This is, indeed, so like a truism, that it is astonishing to hear it controverted. Those, therefore, who, for the reasons fully stated in my preceding pages, judged Sir James an ineligible person to fill the Professorship, felt it right, in justice to him, as well as the University, to express their disapprobation at this preliminary step. Had

the objections to his appointment been on that occasion suppressed, with what fairness could they have been urged in case of a vacancy in the Professorship? Would not Sir James in that event have complained of the inconsistency, as well as cruelty, of starting objections for the first time, when he applied for the office as the reward of his previous services? Not to mention that part of the objections were applicable to him equally in his capacity of public Lecturer, it will, I am confident, be admitted, that those who deemed him an improper candidate for an University office, acted rightly in declaring their opinion, when steps were taken, which were unquestionably designed to lead to that appointment.

In this chapter is the paragraph already quoted, (p. 15.) wherein Sir J. S. allows that this scheme was calculated to give him an advantage over his competitors, but thinks all parties must have been 'conscious that this advantage would not have been an undue one.' If he means, that it would not have been unfair with reference to the other candidates, I profess myself quite unable to agree with him, or to comprehend by what arguments he can arrive at such a conclusion. To a plain understanding it appears, that such an advantage would have been unfair in a high degree; and I cannot help suspecting that his reasons, had he given any,

for such an opinion, would have been thought somewhat unsatisfactory. Since, however, we have no immediate concern with this topic, I am satisfied with demurring to the assertion of 'the advantage not being an undue one,' and shall proceed to give Sir James Smith's account of what he is pleased to denominate the *plot* and *conspiracy* laid against him in the University. First we have the letter written to him, according to arrangement, by Professor Martyn, appointing him his deputy in the following words: "My dear
 " Sir,—The season approaches, when I feel an annual regret that, in consequence of my age and infirmities, I am unable to fulfil my duty, as Dr. Walker's Reader, in giving a course of botanical lectures. If you could, consistently with your other engagements, undertake to read a course next term, I should esteem it a great favour done to me personally, and I have no doubt of its being well received by the University." The remainder of the letter gives him authority to use the lecture room and the botanic garden, under the sanction and control of the Vice Chancellor, and conveys appropriate compliments to Sir James's science and reputation.

"The above Letter (dated March 14, 1818), found me in London, but I returned without delay to Cambridge. By the assistance and authority of the Vice Chancellor, a vacant lecture-room was allotted to me in the schools, that I might not dis-

turb the Professors of Chemistry and Mineralogy, who were engaged in their several courses at the Botanical Professor's rooms in the garden. My lectures were advertised to begin on Monday the 6th of April. Meanwhile I returned homeward for a fortnight, thinking of no opposition, nor that any individual was interested, much less authorized, to excite it. Far was it from me to imagine that I was

*Per totum hoc tempus, subjectior in diem et horam
Invidiæ."*

"The Vice Chancellor himself was, most unhandsomely, kept in perfect ignorance of the *plot* that was hatching, though he almost daily met, upon various business, the chief movers of the *conspiracy*." p. 54.

Then follows the paragraph already quoted, (p. 15) which attributes the opposition to interested friends of other candidates, whom they knew to have but 'slight intention, or indeed ability, of lecturing.'

"A few persons of the above description, were brought to confer with others, actuated by different considerations; some of them doubtless, by *honest prepossession and prejudice*; some by a jealous and exclusive spirit; and others by motives or feelings as indefinable to themselves, as unworthy of being laid open to others, and, in a great measure, quite independent of me or the Professorship. The extent of the whole combination was very small, and the great body of the University *proves* to have been little concerned or consulted.

"At length it became necessary for the *plot* to take a decided form. It settled into the direction of *a few Tutors of a few Colleges,*

who persuaded or surprised others into the scheme; but *many refused to concur*, and some it was thought not expedient to consult. The association can therefore be no more considered as the deed of the Tutors, were any such body acknowledged, than as the public act, or declaration, of the whole Senate." p. 56.

The reader will now have the goodness to listen to another and a plainer representation. The tale is a very short one, and is perfectly free from all sort of mystery.

As soon as the placards had announced Sir James Edward Smith's lectures, under the sanction of the Vice-Chancellor, the propriety of this proceeding became the immediate subject of discussion among the members of the University; and never do I recollect an expression of opinion more general, than that which reprobated both his introduction into an University office, and the mode by which that measure was attempted to be carried. The arguments advanced in my preceding pages, against the admission of a stranger and a Dissenter to a Professorship, or a situation leading to a Professorship, were canvassed in almost every company, and in various shapes.

In particular, several Tutors of the different colleges, by whose recommendation, or, at least, under whose sanction, the young men are in the habit of attending the public lectures of Professors, declared their intention of withholding

that countenance from a lecturer intruded upon us under such circumstances. The notice, however, having appeared during the vacation, while some of the Tutors were absent from the University, no step was taken before their return: nor was it till two or three days before the proposed lectures were to begin, that it could be ascertained, how general and decided a sentiment prevailed against the whole proceeding: in this manner is the delay accounted for, which Sir J. Smith calls, with equal probability and candour, ‘a proof of *malignity* to the Vice-Chancellor and himself.’ When, however, the prevailing sentiments had become sufficiently known, some individuals of the number, who happened to be intimately acquainted with Dr. Webb, apprized him of the general objections entertained among the Tutors, against the introduction of Sir J. Smith, upon the ground of his being both a stranger and a dissenter. The Vice-Chancellor replied with great propriety, to this effect: that though he could not attend to their statement of the opinion of others besides themselves, yet if the Tutors who disapproved of the measure, would express to him in writing the reasons of their disapprobation, together with their names, he would pay all the attention to such a representation, that it seemed to demand. In consequence of this suggestion, the following declaration was subscribed, and de-

livered to the Vice-Chancellor, with as little delay as possible *:

April 4th, 1818.

We, the undersigned Tutors of Colleges, beg leave respectfully to express to the Vice-Chancellor, that we decidedly disapprove of our Pupils attending the Public Lectures of any Person, who is neither a Member of the University, nor a Member of the Church of England.

SAMUEL BERNEY VINCE, *King's College.*

JOHN BROWN,
JAMES HENRY MONK, } *Trinity College.*

JAMES DEVEREUX HUSTLER,
THOMAS CALVERT, }
THO. WALDRON HORNBUCKLE, } *St. John's College.*

RALPH TATHAM,
SAMUEL TILLBROOK, } *Peterhouse.*

WILLIAM FRENCH, *Pembroke Hall.*

BENEDICT CHAPMAN, *Caius College.*

JAMES WILLIAM GELDART, *Trinity Hall.*

THOMAS SHELFORD, *Bene't College.*

WILLIAM MANDELL, *Queen's College.*

THOMAS TURTON, *Catherine Hall.*

WILLIAM HUSTLER, *Jesus College.*

JOSEPH SHAW, *Christ College.*

WILLIAM YOUNG, *Emmanuel College.*

WALTER GEE, *Sidney College.*

* The names are given according to the order of their respective colleges. Sir J. Smith says, that "eighteen names were subscribed *in due order*." The order of signature, whatever it might have been, was merely accidental.

The Vice Chancellor immediately transmitted this paper to Sir James Smith, together with an intimation, as I apprehend, that his scheme of lecturing must be in consequence abandoned.

We have seen that Sir J. Smith relies upon the great number of dissentients among the Tutors. As the representation itself professes to be nothing more than the opinion of the eighteen individuals, whose names are subscribed, he would have acted more prudently in forbearing to move this question. Let us consider how the fact stands. There are twenty-eight persons who bear the office of tutor in the different colleges; but of these, one was not in the University at the time, and two, not being members of the Senate, could not have been allowed to offer to the Vice-Chancellor any opinion whatever. Of twenty-five, therefore, the whole number capable of signing, eighteen subscribed their names. With respect to the other seven, Sir James may, perhaps, be deceived, if he thinks that he had the approbation of all, or even of any, of those gentlemen. The tutors of Clare Hall and Magdalene College were withheld from signing, the one by a dislike to protest against a measure of the Head of his own College, the other by private acquaintance with Sir James. Of the five remaining, two declined; three were not applied to, for reasons, perhaps, different from those which he suspects: whoever is aware of the

numerous avocations and engagements of the tutors, will not wonder, that it is seldom easy to find every one of them at home, in the course of calls made on any given day; owing to this difficulty, several of the eighteen signatures were not subscribed till the evening of Saturday the 4th, at an hour when it was thought hardly decorous to trouble the Vice-Chancellor: thus it happened, that he did not receive the paper till an early hour on the Sunday morning; a fact of which I was not aware, before I saw it mentioned by Sir James; and which I now notice, because, as it is one of the very few correct assertions of his pamphlet, it seems only fair to give him the full advantage of it.

The sum of his censures upon the persons who signed the representation, is comprised in this paragraph:—

“ I should here add the signatures of the parties, but for the following reasons. Nothing can be more discordant than the principles which brought them together. Two or three, perhaps, have been actuated by downright honest, but narrow prejudices; more by anxiety for the interest of their friends. Some are so distinguished by literature, or science, that

We wonder how the devil they came there.

Some were merely passive, and signed without any consideration at all. Four of the whole body very soon acknowledged their error, and directly or indirectly, made the most handsome apologies to me. I

have no doubt that more will follow these examples. So outrageous and sweeping a declaration, so grossly expressed, displaying such ignorance of the history, laws, and precedents of the University, such presumption in an unacknowledged body, and such hostility to science in a literary one, may, as has been suggested by a learned friend, lead future antiquarians to conjecture, should this precious document be preserved, that there is a material error in its date, and that instead of April 4, 1818, we ought, perhaps, to read April 1, 1300." p. 58.

When a gentleman condescends to adopt such language, he forfeits all claim to the respect and deference which his station in society, or his eminence in science would demand. I shall, therefore, make no apology for telling Sir James, that the paragraph just quoted, can be compared with nothing that I ever read, except the lowest effusions of the newspapers. Lest, however, I should seem myself to be imitating his habit of general and unsupported censure, I shall beg the reader to attend to the different members of the sentence, each of which contains a distinct charge. With respect to his omitting the names of the parties, it is pretty evident that this was not done for *their* sakes, or from any tenderness to *them*.

"Nothing can be more discordant than the principles which brought them together." The principles which induced them to sign the paper were, I apprehend, the same in every case—an attachment to the University, and to the Church, toge-

ther with a feeling of their duty. But Sir James persists throughout his pamphlet to assert, that these were only the professed motives, and that their real ones were widely different. To all this I reply, that of a person's *motives* I can admit no representation except his own; and that, when I see his actions correspond faithfully with his alleged principles, I believe his representation to have been a just one. To pretend to penetrate into the recesses of the heart, and to assign motives and feelings, is arbitrary and presumptuous, and actually usurps the power which belongs to omniscience alone. Did it not occur to Sir J. Smith, that his readers would perpetually exclaim—"How do you know this?" *Whence does that appear?*" It is really insufferable to hear a person, who is so inaccurate in matters, where correct information was within his reach, pretending to certain knowledge respecting things, which must be, from their nature, beyond the range of human sagacity to determine.

"Two or three, perhaps, have been actuated by downright honest, but narrow prejudices." Akin to this, is a sentence in the last passage quoted: "Some of them, doubtless, (actuated) by honest prepossession and prejudice." It is rather singular to find the epithet *honest* attached to *prepossession and prejudice*. We will not, however, quarrel with the laudatory word, but merely remark, that by *pre-*

possession and *narrow prejudices*, is meant, attachment to the Church of England. No other interpretation, at least, am I able to give to this charge; which applies with all its force, not to two or three only, but, as I sincerely believe, to every one of the eighteen persons accused. I would, however, remind the writer, that if he be sincere in his own religious opinions, it becomes him, when speaking of those of others, to use terms of respect, or at least of decency.

“ *More by anxiety for the interests of their friends.*” This is the topic which Sir James brings forward in various places, and to which some of his most violent language is devoted. But the assertion, that any of the tutors were influenced by a wish to serve the cause of other candidates, rests entirely upon his own unsupported authority. I pretend not, like him, to a power of detecting the hidden feelings of the heart; but this fact I beg leave to mention:—there happens to be, according to the best of my knowledge and belief, only one of this number, who is on such terms of intimacy and friendship with any candidate, as can give him a personal interest in his success; and the character of this gentleman, for steady and honourable principle, is too well known, to allow a suspicion that he was actuated upon this, or any occasion, by other feelings than those of conscience and of duty.

“ *Some are so distinguished by literature or science, that ‘we wonder how the devil they came there.’* This is definite enough. We have seen Sir James expressly declaring, in the passage already quoted (p. 48.), that ‘no *clergyman*, distinguished for literature or eminent acquirements, has started any objection against him.’ Now, *seventeen* of the objecting tutors are clergymen: consequently, there is only *one* to whom this delicately-turned compliment can possibly apply; and the praise happens to be bestowed in a quarter where it is well deserved. I suspect, however, that the object of his selection does not think so highly of the judgment of his panegyrist, as to feel gratified by the honour conferred on him.

“ *Some were merely passive, and signed without any consideration at all.*” I shall here only appeal to the reader, whether it be credible, that any persons, who have not only arrived at years of discretion, but have actually been selected, in a place where their characters are known, to fill the very important offices of Tutors of Colleges, are capable of expressing a *decided* opinion upon a solemn and important point, upon which they have, in fact, never thought at all: or whether it be decent to make a charge of weakness, bordering upon idiotcy, against gentlemen, whose public situations give them a title to respect.

“ Four of the whole body very soon acknowledged their error, and, directly or indirectly, made the most handsome apologies to me. I have no doubt that more will follow these examples.” It is really distressing to find Sir J. S. making assertions, which exceed all human powers of belief. What evidence, less than their own distinct and public testimony, will make us credit, that four gentlemen, invested with important and responsible functions, who had declared a *decided* sentiment on a serious topic, should, a very short time after, without the intervention of any new fact, or any pretence for change of judgment, discover and confess that the opinion, so solemnly declared, was erroneous. Who the four penitents are, nobody has yet ascertained. All, with whom I have conversed, declare the firmest adherence to their declaration; and the present assertion is received, not only with incredulity, but with ridicule. Had any of the persons in question really changed their opinion upon the propriety of a stranger and a dissenter becoming a Professor amongst us, they would, I apprehend, have thought it right, in justice to all parties, to make their recantation public.

“ So outrageous and sweeping a declaration.” Would the declamation have been more agreeable to Sir J. Smith, had it been directed against him individually as a stranger and dissenter, instead

of wearing the present comprehensive form, which prevents the suspicion of its being personally pointed against himself?

“ *So grossly expressed.*” In what the grossness of expression consists, I am unable to discover, and must therefore leave this point to others. The declaration was written by a gentleman of the highest character for science and talent, whose mind and whose language are alike foreign from every thing gross. The words were intended to put the Vice Chancellor in possession of the sentiments of the parties, expressed in a short, distinct, and tangible form.

“ *Displaying such ignorance of the history, laws, and precedents of the University.*” Indeed? and how does this appear? It is, perhaps, presumed that these gentlemen were ignorant of the fact of Vigani, Rolfe, and Bradley having received the title of Professors, though not members of the University. But is it not more probable that they were acquainted with a matter, recorded in the Cambridge Calendar, which had for years lain upon their tables? I have already shewn that there was *no precedent* for that, of which the Tutors expressed their disapprobation. But it is waste of time to refute such logic as Sir James’s; he does not seem to know, that it is possible at the same time, to be aware of a precedent, and to disapprove an imitation of the example.

“*Such presumption in an unacknowledged body*”—
 ‘*Presumption!*’ The reader will hardly tolerate
 such a charge proceeding from such a quarter!

“*Quis tulerit Gracchos de seditione querentes?*”

It is, however, a mistake, or confusion of ideas, which leads to this accusation. The office of Tutor is not *unacknowledged*, but is, on the contrary, according to the statutes and the practice of the University, a situation of great responsibility, in every thing that concerns the conduct, the expences, or the education of his pupils. Had the representation purported to be, a Resolution of the Tutors, carried at a meeting by a majority of the body, there would have been some meaning in the accusation: at present there is none. The paper merely contains the sentiments of eighteen individuals of the senate, upon a subject regarding the young men, in which they are, from their situations, particularly interested. Sir James is not aware, that it is neither uncommon nor irregular, for a number of members of the senate to present to the Vice Chancellor respectful statements of their opinion upon public measures. I have myself heard several Heads of Colleges, persons from their long residence best acquainted with our customs, and from their situation most likely to discourage the interference of any unauthorized body, declare their distinct approbation of the

step taken by the tutors: nor have I learned that any one, even of the few persons who condemn the representation itself, has insinuated that, in making it, they assumed any right, which did not strictly belong to them.

“*Such hostility to science in a literary one*”— This accusation will not meet with better success than its companions. If the arguments adduced in my preceding pages be valid, the cause of science in the University is better promoted, by encouraging deserving candidates of our own body, than by introducing strangers to fill our offices. At all events, Sir James Smith should convince us of the contrary, before he can be entitled to accuse us of ‘hostility to science.’

—“*May, as has been suggested by a learned friend, lead future antiquarians to conjecture, should this precious document be preserved, that there is a material error in its date, and that instead of April 4, 1818, we ought, perhaps, to read, April 1, 1300.*” ‘Oh! most lame and impotent conclusion!’ so, all the tragedy of the preceding sentences ends with an allusion to the novel and facetious topic of *April Fools*. The learning, indeed, of Sir James’s friend, is of a prodigious kind, since it enables him to speculate upon, what *future antiquarians* may conjecture that *we ought* to read; *τά τ’ ἔόντα, τά τ’ ἐσσόμενα, πρό τ’ ἔόντα*. But, learned as he is, he has led Sir James into an unlucky scrape: the

obvious application of his recondite jest is, that the President of the Linnæan Society came to Cambridge upon a *fool's errand*.

I wish the subject could now be dismissed with the good humour infused by his learned friend's sally. But there are two complaints, which I must allege in my turn against Sir J. Smith; one in common with my brethren, the other relating only to myself. First, then, it must be noticed, that the opposition of which Sir James complains, was of a public and general nature; and that he, in resenting it by a personal attack upon the motives and principles of individuals, has violated every rule of legitimate hostility. The several charges of disguised and disingenuous motives—of extreme imbecility—and of personal malignity, which we find him making against some of our number, must, as he does not specify the individuals, be resented by every one of the eighteen. He has thought fit, although his subject had no connexion with such topics, to exclude from any share of literary reputation, the persons, upon whom all the students in the University, with a very small exception, depend for their instruction and improvement. Upon this point, however, it does not become us to speak: the just criterion of a tutor's qualifications must be found in the proficiency, and the success of his pupils; and, if tried by this test, we do not fear comparison with any of our pre-

decessors. The character of the tutors of colleges, is a subject of material concern to the University, as well as to the whole kingdom; and Sir J. Smith will find himself grievously mistaken, if he expects to serve his own cause, by his efforts to degrade them in the opinion of their pupils and of the public.

The other matter of complaint refers to myself individually. What the motives of others may have been, I can only judge by their own representations, and by their actions; but my own *I know*; and am certain, that they are nowhere stated by Sir James, who yet was not uninformed respecting them. Two or three days after our representation had been made to the Vice Chancellor, Sir James Smith, with whom I had no previous acquaintance, honoured me with a visit, for the purpose of discussing the questions contained in the paper to which he saw my name affixed. I observed with real pain, that his feelings appeared to have been hurt. I endeavoured to convince him, that nothing personal or offensive to himself had been intended: that the paper had been meant only to convey to the Vice Chancellor the sentiments of those who signed it: that, had I apprehended an intention of transmitting it to himself, I should certainly have required the insertion of such declarations of the respect felt for him by all the parties, as would have prevented his

personal feelings from being affected. Conceiving, as I said, that he was entitled to an explanation, I declared to him unreservedly the reasons which had led me to join in the representation: that, with the highest opinion of his pre-eminent attainments in Botany, I conscientiously objected to the admission of a dissenter to any professorship in the University, however removed from theological questions the science might be, which he professed. I added, that having maintained this opinion in private companies, where the subject was mentioned, I could not have consistently refused my assent to that public declaration. Sir James urged in his own favour many of the topics, which we find in his pamphlet. He mentioned a few others, concerning individuals rather than any public question, to which, of course, I make no allusion. That he did not, however, misunderstand the explanation of my motives, is clear; for when I repeated, at the conclusion of his visit, the concern which I experienced, at having felt obliged to subscribe a paper that had given him uneasiness, he replied; that 'he thought I had acted right, since such were my opinions.'

Before I take my final leave of Sir James's pamphlet, it is necessary to notice his assertions, that the 'whole procedure of the tutors was generally reprobated,' and that the remonstrance 'was *justly* appreciated (i. e. appreciated accord-

ing to his own notions), throughout the whole University.' I shall only remark, that the dissatisfaction, had it existed, would have very quickly reached the ears of those who were its objects: but, though I have been resident in the University ever since, and in the daily habit of mixing in companies, where the matter has been discussed without reserve, I have heard only in a very few instances, the least disapprobation expressed. What are Sir James's sources of information, I know not; but from my own observation I should be led to form a directly opposite opinion, and to think, that the conduct in question was very generally *approved* throughout the University: at all events, I have perceived no symptoms, either in my own college, or in any other, of the tutors having thereby forfeited the least particle of the good will and good opinion of their fellow-collegians.

In the following sentence, there are some apparent inconsistencies, which I leave the reader to reconcile:

" But whatever might be my consolation and encouragement from these sources, or from witnessing the effect of these events upon several distinguished strangers, then passing through Cambridge, or on others who expressed their sentiments, pretty strongly, by letter; my intention of lecturing could not be persisted in. I was happy my friends did not require it, and I readily concurred in their opinion; though, had it been different, I should with equal readiness have assented. My fame or my personal

feelings were out of the question, and I was then at the public disposal. Every thing, however, ended according to my wishes." p. 59.

What weight is due to the sentiments of these 'distinguished strangers,' we cannot determine, without knowing, whether they received a full, or a partial statement of the merits of the question.

With respect to the blow inflicted upon the University, by the loss of his lectures, Sir James Smith appears a little to exaggerate the case, and to lay his own damages somewhat too high. We learn from him, that these lectures were anxiously wished by numerous members of the University, whom he represents as actually famished for want of botanical instruction.

"The crowd of students who always attended the chemical lectures, as well as of those seen at the mineralogical courses of Professor Clarke, evinces the ardour of the young men, and of many resident members of the University, in the pursuit of natural science; nor are botanical lectures less eagerly desired than the above-mentioned. But

'The hungry flocks look up and are not fed.' " p. 23.

The comparison here instituted is not more fortunate, than the use which Sir James elsewhere makes of the history of Newton and Locke. He is right, indeed, with respect to the numerous audiences at the lectures of Dr. Tennant and of Dr. Clarke. It is customary for persons, who propose attending public lectures, to write their names previously upon a board prepared for the

purpose. The number of names subscribed for Dr. Clarke's first course exceeded one hundred; and they have, in subsequent years, generally been more than a hundred and fifty. Professor Tennant's were at least as numerously attended: and in both cases, more persons have sought admission, than the respective rooms could accommodate. But with regard to Sir J. Smith's proposed course, the comparison does not hold: in spite of the celebrity of the lectures given at the Royal Institution, the 'hungry flock,' which was on this occasion disappointed of its repast, consisted, as I understand, of the Vice Chancellor and only four or five other persons. I neither doubt the eagerness with which this flock desired its food, nor the keenness of its present disappointment: but it is right to mention the disproportion of its numbers, in mitigation of the damages alleged.

As a reward to the reader, for his patience in accompanying thus far my examination of Sir James's *Considerations*, I shall now extract for his amusement two enigmas, with which the fourth chapter is enlivened; but without offering the least hint, or assistance, which might destroy the pleasure of guessing them.

ENIGMA I.—“Astrological signs, as usual, before any great event in the history of polities and states, foreboded more than could be well interpreted. *Sol* was observed in unexampled conjunction with dark and malignant planets, whose orbits, in all their

oblique inclinations, he had hitherto, rather disdainfully, shunned. He could not illuminate them, but he now assumed somewhat of a nebulous aspect from their influence. Such appearances caused wonder in the observers, but were not communicated to me till afterwards, when, as commonly happens, they were explained." p. 55.

ENIGMA II.—“ Sunday the 5th of April, the day immediately preceding my intended lectures, being judged the most fit for the enterprise, the old image was brought forth, *inutile lignum*, in solemn procession. Its only ornament was a borrowed palm-branch, from a neighbouring garden, having none of its own growth. The figure itself was concealed by a paper veil, bearing the following inscription in very legible characters.” (*Here follows the Representation of the Tutors.*)

“ Thus the procession set forth ; but the palm-branch soon fell off, as if ashamed of its office ; several of the supporters gave way ; and before the close of the day, the above writing was justly appreciated throughout the whole University.” p. 57.

In taking leave of this subject, as I trust, for ever, I wish most seriously to express my absolute freedom from all animosity to Sir James Smith. The charges and insinuations, with which his work abounds, I certainly consider unfounded and unprovoked ; but it will give me real concern, if I shall be thought, in repelling them, ever to have used unnecessary severity. From all matters unconnected with his pamphlet I have carefully abstained. And Sir James will, at all events, find that he has experienced gentler treatment himself, than that which he has shown to others ; since he will neither see his motives attacked, nor

his acquirements and reputation depreciated. It will afford me great satisfaction to learn that he has consulted his own dignity and character, by abandoning all attempts to procure admission into a body, where he finds so strong a disinclination to receive him. I now repeat, what I declared to Sir James himself, that it occasioned me sincere concern to be obliged to subscribe my name to a representation, which gave pain to his feelings and obstructed his views; and I add, that it is a subject of no small regret, to find those sentiments of respect, which I had previously entertained for him, diminished by the perusal of his ill-advised Pamphlet.

Trinity College, Cambridge.

June 9th, 1818.

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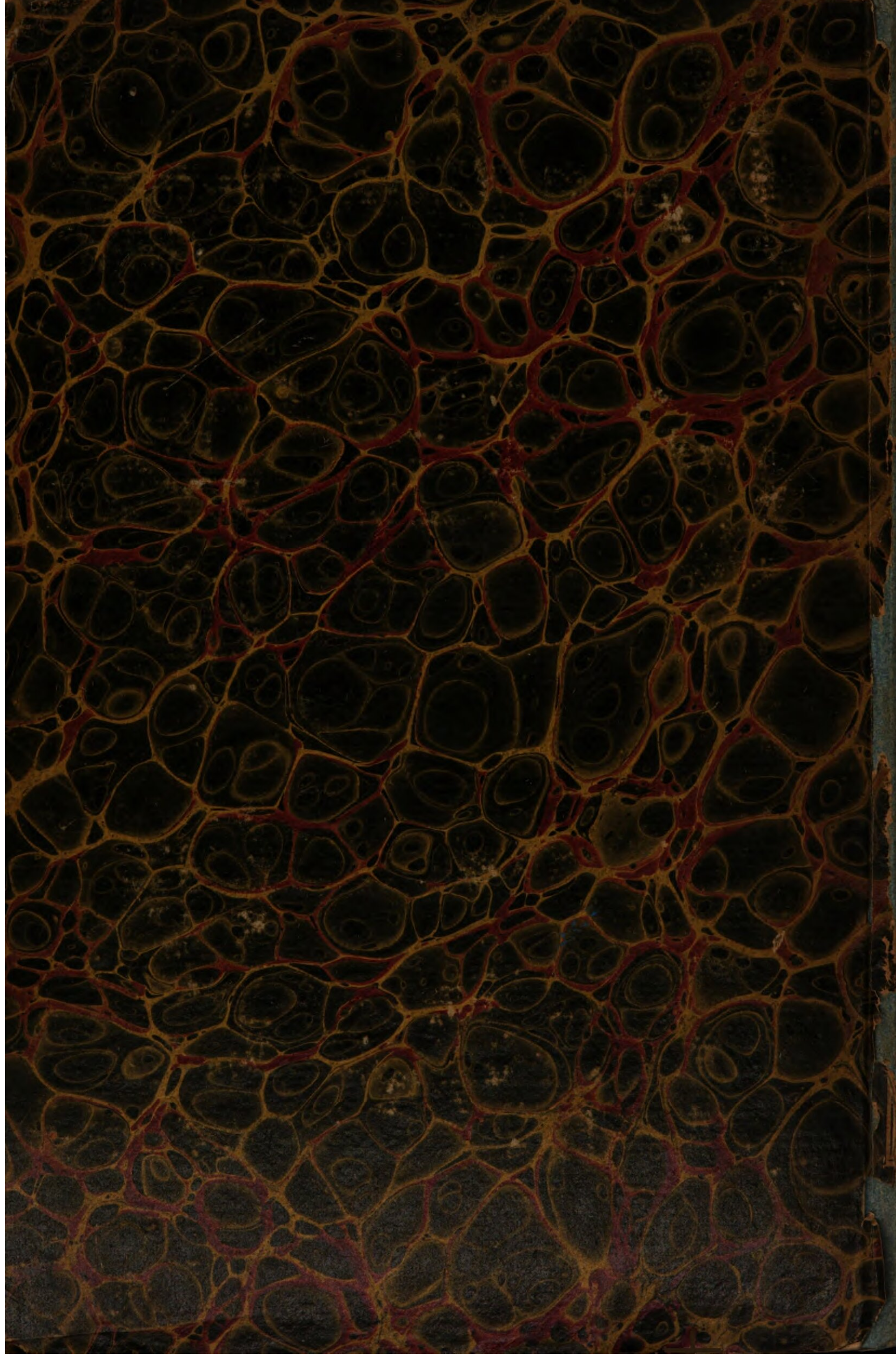
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